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FBIS-SOV-92-123 CONTENTS *25 June 1992*

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FRONT PAGE

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Impact of Arms Deal on Russian Role Assessed *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 23 Jun]* 2
Nuclear Expert Urges Retention of Deterrent *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Jun]* 4
Consequences of Semipalatinsk Tests Considered *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 5
  Future Plans Detailed *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Comparison of Grachev on Arms Cuts Accords *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Jun]* 6

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Black Sea States Hold Meeting in Istanbul 7
  Turkey's Demirel Remarks *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
  Yugoslav Participation Questionable *[INTERFAX]* 7
  Delegations Arrive *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
  Yeltsin Arrives, Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
  Further on Issues *[Radio Rossii]* 7
  Romanian Spokesman Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  Turkish Leaders' Differences Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  Yeltsin Speaks on Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  Economic Declaration Signed *[Radio Rossii]* 9
Kravchuk, Shevardnadze Sign Economic Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
U.S., British Officers Meet With CIS Navy *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
TASS Journalists From Bonn Department Strike 10
  Demand Resignation *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
  Open Letter Issued *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
  Chief Editor Makes Rebuttal *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Commentary on Israeli Officer's Remarks on Iran *[Moscow International]* 11

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

'Preliminary Agenda' for CIS Meeting Reported *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
General on Military Aspects of Dagomys Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Admiral Welcomes Black Sea Fleet Agreement *[Moscow International]* 14
Parties Prepare for Congress of Left Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 Jun 14

RUSSIA

International Affairs

More on Russian, Ukrainian Delegation Talks 16
  Gaydar on Relations *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 24 Jun]* 16
  Yeltsin, Kravchuk Answer Questions *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Jun]* 16
  More on Kravchuk's Remarks *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
  Autonomous Dniester Republic Favored *[Bucharest Radio]* 17
  'Compromise' Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 25 Jun]* 17
Further on Ossetian Talks With Shevardnadze 18
Shevardnadze Arrives, Talks Begin *[INTERFAX]* 18
  Fundamental Document Signed *[Moscow Radio]* 18
  Yeltsin Resumes Gas Shipments *[INTERFAX]* 19

Shevardnadze on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Officials on Agreement *[Moscow TV]* 20
Yeltsin on Monitoring Group *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Moscow 'Actively Supports' Georgia's UN Plans *[INTERFAX]* 20
Yeltsin To Meet Moldovan President in Istanbul *[INTERFAX]* 20
Kozyrev Previews Black Sea Countries Meeting *[Moscow Radio]* 21
Support Voiced for Black Sea Cooperation Zone *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Defense Ministry Says Army Neutral in Dniester *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Dniester Leader Arrives in Moscow for Talks *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Further on Remarks *[Moscow TV]* 22
Delegation Returns From Moldovan Visit, Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Operational Group Takes Emergency Aid to Dniester *[Moscow Radio]* 23
Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives News Briefing 23
Remarks on Yeltsin's Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Criticizes Yugoslav Pact *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Comments on Weapons to Taiwan *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Views UN Report *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Comments on Black Sea Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Lithuania Warned Against Attacks on Military *[BALTFAX]* 24
Japanese Foreign Minister To Visit 'Soon' *[INTERFAX]* 24
Deputy Foreign Minister Lavrov Visits Japan *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Suggests Regional Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Meeting on Japanese Peace Treaty Postponed *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
U.S. 'Pressure' Applied to Rocket Sale to India *[Moscow TV]* 25
Rocket Specialists Arrive in India *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
All Contracts To Be 'Fulfilled' *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Said To Concede More Than Gorbachev *[PRAVDA 20 Jun]* 26
Impact of Yeltsin's U.S. Visit Analyzed *[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Jun]* 28
Yeltsin's Canadian Visit, Talks Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 25 Jun]* 29
Outcome of Helsinki CSCE Meeting Assessed *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
CSCE Delegate on Dniester, Ossetian Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 30

Federation Affairs

Government Collegium Endorses Reform Program *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Stages of Plan Outlined *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Shokhin Comments *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Session Discusses Convertible Promissory Notes *[INTERFAX]* 31
Gaydar Heads Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 31
City Council Memo on Ostankino Actions Issued *[INTERFAX]* 32
Picket Slated for 2 Jul *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 24 Jun]* 32
'Black Day,' 'Fascism' Encountered at Ostankino *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 23 Jun]* 33
Rally, Outcome Shows 'Confrontation Is Growing' *[Russian TV]* 34
Soviet Navy Equipment Offered for Sale *[Vienna DER STANDARD 24 Jun]* 34
Figures of Decline in Military Production Cited *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jun]* 35
Plans for Armed Forces Development Analyzed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Jun]* 35
Shchit Chairman on Military Leaders 'Bankruptcy' *[KURANTY 25 Jun]* 36
Farms Slow To Hire Military Units for Harvest *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 Jun]* 37
Krasnoyarsk Station Becomes Furniture Factory *[Moscow TV]* 38
Central Bank Opposes Minting Gold Coins *[INTERFAX]* 38
Commission Finds Fault With Bank, Ministry *[INTERFAX]* 38
Central Bank Defends Against Corruption Charges *[Russian TV]* 38
New Bank To Help Advancement of Foreign Trade *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Deputies Insist Coup Leaders Be Released *[INTERFAX]* 39
Stepankov Refuses Coup Leaders Appeals *[INTERFAX]* 39
Gorbachev Refuses To Represent CPSU in Court *[Russian TV]* 39
CPSU Official Views Latest Developments *[Budapest NEPSZAVA 17 Jun]* 39
Hard-Hit Farmers Contemplate Strike Actions *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Jun]* 40
Supreme Soviet Official on Ethnic Issues *[Russian TV]* 41
Plan, Cost for Yeltsin 'Camp David' Revealed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 17 Jun]* 42
Paper Sees End to Leaders' 'Infighting' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 24 Jun]* 43

- Ownership Rights Central to Gaydar Program *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 Jun]* 44
- Significant Changes in Budget Considered *[INTERFAX]* 44
- Supreme Soviet's Ryabov on Role of Congress *[FEDERATSIYA 17-23 Jun]* 45
- Poltoranin on Economic Support for Press *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 17 Jun]* 47
- Budget Limits Make Radio Moscow Future Unclear *[Moscow International]* 48
- Moscow International Offers Advertising Space 48
- Adviser on Russian Technology 'Sellout' Policy *[Dusseldorf WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHE 19 Jun]* 48
- Aerospace Experts on Reusable Space Systems *[Moscow International]* 49
- Satellite Launched From Plesetsk Cosmodrome *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Supreme Soviet

- Session Passes Bill on Federal Security Bodies *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
- Barchuk Urges Curb of Ruble Flow From CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
- More on Hearings of Ostankino Events *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 24 Jun]* 50
- Further on Discussions of Media Policy *[Radio Rossii]* 50
- Soviet of Republic Amends Russian Civil Code *[Moscow TV]* 51
- Government To Increase Grain, Tobacco Imports *[INTERFAX]* 51

Regional Affairs

- Dniester Leader Holds News Conference in Moscow *[Moscow Radio]* 52
- Moscow Council Condemns Dniester Bloodshed *[INTERFAX]* 52
  - Stankevich Notes Deaths *[Moscow TV]* 53
- Fiber Optic Communications To Appear in Moscow *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Jun]* 53
- Moscow's Public Transportation Fare Doubles *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
- Moscow Government Limits Issuance of Gas *[Moscow Radio]* 53
- Dilapidated Gas Mains Kill Several in Moscow *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 19 Jun]* 53
- Moscow Branch of CPSU Reorganizes *[Moscow Radio]* 54
- Chechen President Accused of Discrediting Post *[Radio Rossii]* 54
- Chechen Armed Forces Establishment Begins *[Russian TV]* 54
- Cossacks Seize Krasnodar Administration Building *[POSTFACTUM]* 54
- Cossacks Demand Russia Retain Kuril Islands *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
- Khabarovsk Official Comments on Power Plans *[Vladivostok Radio]* 55
- 'Threat' From Kaliningrad Region Considered *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Jun]* 56
- Tatar Communist Conference Held in Kazan *[POSTFACTUM]* 57
- Tatar President Outlines Results of Western Tour *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jun]* 58

UKRAINE

International Affairs

- Kravchuk Interviewed on Dagomys Talks Results *[IZVESTIYA 25 Jun]* 59
- Kravchuk Favors Dniester Becoming Autonomous *[UKRINFORM]* 59
  - Kravchuk Denies Report *[Radio Rossii]* 59
- Military Observers Leave Dniester Region *[Radio Rossii]* 59
- Rally Demands Stop to 'Genocide' in Moldova *[Russian TV]* 59
- Leaders Positively Assess Gaydar's Appointment *[POSTFACTUM]* 60
- Adm Kasatonov Said To Infringe Legislation *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jun]* 60
- Russia Cooperates in Nuclear Power Engineering *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
- Diplomatic Relations Established With Morocco *[UKRINFORM]* 61

National Affairs

- 1993 Economic, Social Development Plan Noted *[UKRINFORM]* 61
- Minister on Defense Enterprises' Privatization *[Kiev International]* 61
- Committee Head Cited on Disarmament Issues *[Kiev International]* 61
- Deputy Prime Minister on Agriculture Crisis *[IZVESTIYA 19 Jun]* 62
- Crimean Referendum Opponents Appeal to Deputies *[INTERFAX]* 62
- Rukh Issues Statement on Religious Situation *[Kiev Radio]* 62

WESTERN REGION

Byelarus

Chairman Shushkevich Reviews Ties With Poland *[Wroclaw GAZETA ROBOTNICZA 13-14 Jun]* ... 63
  Hails Polish, Russian Relations *[Moscow TV]* ... 64
  Discusses Friendship Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 64
Russia To Fund Defense Ministry Enterprises *[Moscow Radio]* ... 64
Shushkevich Interviewed on Constitution *[INTERFAX]* ... 65

Moldova

Separatists Reportedly Use 'Toxic Substances' *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* ... 65
Military Council on Moldovan Overflights *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 66
14th Army Reportedly Downs 2 Moldovan Aircraft *[INTERFAX]* ... 66
Government Bans Russian Publications *[INTERFAX]* ... 66
Romanian Military Hardware Arrives 24 Jun *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 66
Troops, Equipment Concentrated in Dniester *[INTERFAX]* ... 67
Smirnov on Exclusion From Istanbul Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 67
Smirnov Urges 14th Army, Ukrainian Involvement *[INTERFAX]* ... 67
'Top Leadership' Reportedly Controls 14th Army *[POSTFACTUM]* ... 68
Ministries Accused of Economic Damage *[POSTFACTUM]* ... 68
Gagauz Threatens With 'Punitive' Sanctions *[POSTFACTUM]* ... 68
20 Dniester Deputies Resign From Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 69
Dniester, 14th Army Blamed for Bloodshed *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 69
Officials Pessimistic About End to Conflict *[Moscow Radio]* ... 69
CIS General Skeptical of Peaceful Solution *[INTERFAX]* ... 69
Acts of Violence Reported from Dniester Region *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* ... 69
Rumors of Bendery Leaders' Departure Denied *[Moscow Radio]* ... 70
Health Chief Claims Bendery Deaths Exaggerated *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 70
Dubossary Dam Threatens Widespread Flooding *[Radio Rossii]* ... 70
Social Democrats Favor Federal System *[Moscow TV]* ... 70
Rybnitsa Home Guard Seeks Dniester Recognition *[Russian TV]* ... 70

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Nabiyev Decree Orders Surrender of Weapons *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 71
General Blames President for Arms Distribution *[Dushanbe Radio]* ... 71
Decree Relieves Kurgan-Tyube Official of Duty *[Dushanbe Radio]* ... 71
  Official Appointed *[Dushanbe Radio]* ... 71
Further on Supreme Soviet Presidium Statement *[IZVESTIYA 24 Jun]* ... 71
Officers' Assembly Reacts to Presidium Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 72
Foreign Ministry Views Clashes, Situation *[INTERFAX]* ... 72
Decree on Foreign Economic Activity Issued *[Dushanbe Radio]* ... 72
'Experts' Criticize Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 72

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Supreme Soviet Meets on Nagorno-Karabakh *[Yerevan Radio]* ... 74
Opposition Party Blames Government for Defeat *[INTERFAX]* ... 74
Revolutionary Party Pickets Radio Building *[IZVESTIYA 20 Jun]* ... 74
President Orders Aid to Soldiers' Families *[INTERFAX]* ... 74
Presidential Edict Addresses Internal Troops *[POSTFACTUM]* ... 74
Russians Reportedly Supply Azeris With Arms *[INTERFAX]* ... 74
Further Reportage on Fighting, Statements *[Yerevan Radio]* ... 75
  'Calm' Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* ... 75

Mardakert Seizure Denied *[Radio Rossii]* 76
'Great Alarm' Caused *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 24 Jun]* 76
Diplomatic Ties Set Up With South Africa *[INTERFAX]* 76

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Issues Statement on Borders *[Baku Radio]* 76
Situation Along Border, Other Areas Updated *[Baku Radio]* 76
Army Captures Mardakert *[Radio Rossii]* 77
Heavy Fighting Reported *[Ankara TV]* 77
Nakhichevan's Aliyev Comments on Supplies *[Russian TV]* 77
Elchibey, Delegation Depart for Black Sea Talks *[Baku Radio]* 78
Minister Comments on Nomenklatura's Finances *[IZVESTIYA 22 Jun]* 78

Georgia

State Council Deputy Chairman on Tbilisi Events *[INTERFAX]* 78
Over 24 Casualties in Tbilisi Violence 24 Jun *[Radio Rossii]* 78
Procurator General Claims 20 Deaths *[POSTFACTUM]* 79
More on Casualties *[Radio Rossii]* 79
Official To Send Protest to Chechen Republic *[Moscow Radio]* 79
Supporters Block Railway in Western Georgia *[Moscow Radio]* 79
Gamsakhurdia Blamed for Explosions *[Moscow Radio]* 80
Situation in S. Ossetia 'Comparatively Stable' *[Tbilisi Radio]* 80
Ossetians Violate Cease-Fire Agreement *[Moscow Radio]* 80
Ossetian-Georgian Military Actions Continue *[Moscow TV]* 80
South Ossetian Minister on Dagomys Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 80
'Armed Formations' Occupy Abkhaz Ministry *[Tbilisi Radio]* 81
Forces Remove Georgian-Appointed Minister *[INTERFAX]* 81
Accord Signed With Iran on Gas, Consular Ties *[Russian TV]* 81
Natural Gas Supplies Via Azerbaijan Stop *[POSTFACTUM]* 81
Reactions to Gas Cutoff *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Jun]* 81
National Guard Base in Western Region Attacked *[Tbilisi Radio]* 82
State Council Denies Ultimatum to Tskhinvali *[POSTFACTUM]* 82
Ministry Reports Ossetians Attack Village *[INTERFAX]* 82
Defense Minister: 'No Problem' With CIS Forces *[Madrid ABC 16 Jun]* 82
Shevardnadze To Back Elchibey's Caucasus Idea *[INTERFAX]* 83

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Troops Seize Ammunition From Russian Train *[BALTFAX]* 84
Incident at Baltic Fleet Radio Post Viewed *[POSTFACTUM]* 84
Speculation Continues Over Dudayev Visit *[IZVESTIYA 24 Jun]* 84
Trade Minister Signs Agreement With Moscow *[Tallinn Radio]* 84
Labor Minister Views Price Increases *[Tallinn Radio]* 85

Lithuania

Spokesman Views Russian Decree on Retaliation *[Vilnius Radio]* 85
Former USSR Troop Numbers 'Understated' *[LIETUVOS RYTAS 12 Jun]* 85
Further on Troop Withdrawal Issue at CSCE *[Vilnius Radio]* 86
Delegation Leader Remarks *[INTERFAX]* 86
Baker Replies to Landsbergis on Plant Safety *[Vilnius International]* 87
Prime Minister Requests Additional Powers *[BALTFAX]* 87
Criticizes Local Bodies *[INTERFAX]* 87
Landsbergis on Banking, Currency Policy *[Vilnius Radio]* 88
Landsbergis Lauds Estonian Currency Reform *[Vilnius Radio]* 88
Landsbergis Speaks on Campaign, Elections *[Vilnius Radio]* 88
Supreme Council Continues Election Discussions *[Vilnius International]* 89
Officials Remark on Parliamentary Elections *[BALTFAX]* 89
Center Faction Representative Comments *[Vilnius International]* 90

Russia, Georgia Hold Talks on Ossetia

Georgian leader Shevardnadze and Yeltsin met to discuss the Ossetian situation. Moscow Radio reports that an agreement on the settlement of the conflict around South Ossetia was signed. Yeltsin and Shevardnadze agreed to hold summit meetings regularly and to establish diplomatic relations as of 1 July. INTERFAX notes that Russia and Georgia "pledged to settle all disputes only by peaceful means through political talks without resorting to the use of force or the threat of force"; a control commission will be established; and Russian gas shipments to Georgia will resume.

Moldova Bans Russian Publications

INTERFAX reports that the Moldovan Government "banned the printing and distribution of the newspapers 'PRAVDA' and 'RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA'" on 24 June. The government said that these publications are "spreading disinformation on the events in Moldova." Fighting continues in Bendery and Kaushany, with reports that a "toxic" substance was used in an attack against a Moldovan defense unit, reports Bucharest ROMPRES.

Russian Cabinet Endorses In-Depth Reforms

A three-year program for "in-depth reform" was endorsed at an extended session of the Russian Government Collegium headed by Yegor Gaydar, ITAR-TASS reports. The first stage of the reform, "the actual stabilization of the economy...," according to Vladimir Mau, government economic adviser, "...is already nearing completion" and the second stage is "scheduled for 1992-1995." The program "recognizes" that in 1992 the fall in production is "expected to be about 15 percent of the gross national product index," 5 percent in 1993, and by 1994 production will be stabilized and the "Russian economy will begin to grow." The program to deepen reforms will focus attention on "problems of privatization, support for enterprise, and the formation of a social base for reforms."

Black Sea Talks Begin in Istanbul

ITAR-TASS reports that on 25 June, meetings between the leaders of the Black Sea states, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, and Georgia on regional economic cooperation, began in Istanbul. Radio Rossii reports that a Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation was signed. The document "notes that the Black Sea must become a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity. The declaration confirms the determination of the countries that have signed it to resolve regional conflicts peacefully". Yeltsin stated: "We wish to strengthen peace and stability in this region so that the Black Sea will always unite peoples, and its shores will be open for all around cooperation".

Armenian Opposition Begins Protest

While the Armenian Supreme Soviet continues to debate draft resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh, the opposition party Dashnaktsutyun protested the government's current policy. INTERFAX reports that Dashnaktsutyun member Levon Shirinyan blamed the "defeat of Armenians in the Shaumyanov region" on the government. IZVESTIYA reports that picketing of the Armenian Radio building began, on the initiative of this opposition party. Picketers demanded "truthful and unbiased news about events in Nagorno-Karabakh"; the ban on "alternative programs be lifted"; "airtime be given to all political movements and parties"; and that the state television and radio chief resign.

Impact of Arms Deal on Russian Role Assessed

PM2406133992 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 3

["Position" article by Russian Federation people's deputy Nikolay Pavlov: "Bankruptcy"]

[Text] By declaring in Washington the abandonment of the ideology of parity of strategic armaments and signing a memorandum on questions of deep and large-scale cuts in strategic armaments and other agreements, Russian President B. Yeltsin ended his presidency. No decent and honest person can have any doubt about that. What he did during the U.S. visit finished him as a politician, human being, and Russian citizen. I am well aware of what I am saying. Indeed, what he did and what the Supreme Soviet will do in response to his actions is bound to lead to a switch to abrupt exacerbation of the struggle with the present regime.

Do not be too keen to accuse me of calling for unconstitutional action. I have always stood for and continue to stand exclusively for legal methods of struggle, which is why "Working Russia" leader Viktor Anpilov apparently once called me a bourgeois liberal and why a pensioner at a recent meeting in Novgorod, which I attended with People's Deputy Ilya Konstantinov, was even more scathing in calling me an agent of Yeltsin. "Why do you regard me in that way?" I asked him. "I used to be in charge of a shop, then I was pensioned off in the first batch, and now I have bought no meat or butter at all for four months. And you are urging me to observe the Constitution."

This crime—not only against ethnic Russians, against the people of Russia, but against the whole world—must be stopped. This preposterous imbalance will lead to the appearance of a world gendarme, who may decide tomorrow to destroy 100 hospitals or residential areas somewhere, as he did recently in Iraq. He is already saber-rattling, wanting to destroy Serbia. The willfulness of the world gendarme, in the form of the United States, will lead to consequences which we cannot even imagine.

I conducted the parliamentary hearings on strategic nuclear armaments. The four experts with excellent qualifications who participated in the talks and were present at the signing of the treaty by Bush and Gorbachev sounded the alarm, considering that treaty extremely disadvantageous to us.

During the talks the system that was used for counting nuclear warheads on various types of delivery vehicles was disadvantageous to us.

According to the counting rules adopted during the talks, after the implementation of the 31 July 1991 treaty the USSR is left with 5,753 nuclear warheads and the United States with 6,000. That is, parity appears to be observed. But, according to Candidate of Technical Sciences Reserve Colonel V. Dmitriyev, an expert who participated in the Soviet-American talks on strategic offensive armaments, if the nuclear warheads are counted by a different system, you get entirely different figures, namely 6,251 for the USSR and 11,348 for the United States, that is, nearly twice as many. Although not all experts agree with this approach, it would be extremely irresponsible to underestimate even an isolated opinion in such an important matter; after all, we are talking about the country's defense capability and security.

The proposed option for the further reduction of strategic offensive weapons, signed in Washington, weakens our defense capability even more, since it envisages in the future the complete destruction of our main nuclear potential, which comprises land-based MIRVed ICBM's. Whereas the main U.S. potential is concentrated on aircraft and submarines and is only slightly affected by the treaty. It was for that reason that Yeltsin was forced to declare in Washington that we would not bother with petty calculations. But if these calculations are made by objective experts, it reveals a massive imbalance between the nuclear warhead levels in favor of the United States. An insane step has been taken toward our self-destruction and unconditional switch to the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella, since the destruction of our land-based strategic missiles is nothing but the complete abandonment of an independent state policy and total surrender.

That is the result of B. Yeltsin's two-year spell at the helm of Russia, which is losing its independence.

Our state's economic security is nonexistent. More than once Gaydar has made it plain that unless we follow the "course of reforms" we will be refused credits and we will have to face anarchy, chaos, and social upheaval.

To be honest, you need considerable imagination to be able then to talk about Russian policy as the policy of an independent state. In fact, they have ceased to rate us already! Suffice it to recall the U.S. sanctions against the Main Space Administration when it tried to sell one of its missile technologies to India. You do not deal with independent states like that. Let alone a great power, as we sometimes still call ourselves out of habit.

What about the military sphere? In one year of the presidency the army disintegrated, on a massive scale that beggars understanding. The army is ceasing to be manageable and is losing its combat capability and the qualities that make it an army.

The criminal destruction of the Union state has radically reduced the defense capability of all the CIS countries and, certainly, of the Russian Federation. By losing the Transcaucasus and the Baltics, which were part of the single Union state, we lost ABM systems which cannot function normally without the proper stations. But the stations are located in the aforementioned regions. The damage runs to hundreds and hundreds of billions of rubles [R].

Borders, which do not have to be closed but must be controlled, are a very important sign of state sovereignty.

At the moment the Russian borders are practically wide open. Anyone can get into any part of the country across the Moldavian-Romanian border or the border with Turkey. Turkey is a member of the NATO system, and it is naive to think that it is a 100-percent friendly country. Meanwhile, the Americans have not reduced expenditure on intelligence and do not intend to. Moreover, they are strengthening all these areas. What we see, however, is total collapse. In short, Russian economic and military security does not exist at the moment.

I remember B.N. Yeltsin in his inaugural speech on 10 July 1991, on becoming president, promising that "the aberrant tradition of dividing ourselves into the righteous and the guilty, into us and them, into those who are with us and those who are not with us will be a thing of the past." Well, the result of the president's two-year policy is a split in society which he has personally contributed to. His words about enemies who have to be fought, even if they are women, will go down in Russian history. He called my colleagues Svetlana Goryacheva and her comrades who were party to the policy statement enemies. No one will ever forget that.

Now Yeltsin says in an interview that certain party structures are forming a strike force and posing a threat. I would suggest to Boris Nikolayevich that he look at the list of his secretary colleagues in party oblast committee, that he scrutinize the names that are painfully familiar to him, the names of people he sat on the Central Committee with for 15 years or so. Some 70 percent of these gentlemen are working in commercial structures and they have no intention of forming any kind of strike force.

When he makes these statements the president is banking on the ignorance of our duped and tormented people. He is sowing the seeds of hatred and it is beginning to erode society.

It was he who called the majority of the people, who are so poor and hungry that they have already started to protest in the streets, the "red-browns." When he was in Paris, seeking credits from so-called friends who dream about the collapse of our country, he worried them by saying that the "red-browns" would bring him down if he did not obtain credits. The president was alluding to the generally law-abiding citizens who were coming out to protest against the 15-20-30-fold increase in prices, whereas in the West they go on strike when things go up by two-three percent. There they have indexation. But where is the indexation that we were promised?

Add to that the total collapse of the financial system, hyperinflation, mass production shutdown, anarchy, and chaos in the juridical sphere, which do not enhance civil accord...In every respect society has taken a giant step backward and gone in the worst possible direction. That is, we are witnessing the complete bankruptcy of the president's course. It is the bankruptcy of the president himself, because he led that course and was its most active champion. Even Mr Volskiy is now talking about a 30-percent decline in production. Although it took him five months to get to grips with the president's "reforms" and announce that he did not support them, that he was also somewhat in opposition....

In December we, a few parliamentary factions, opposed the government for the first time, on the basis of a forecast by economic experts, not on the basis of emotion. Where were they then, the gentlemen who are now beginning to play for the opposition? They were applauding and saying: The president's course is a remarkable one. Now even Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has decided to come out with jarring criticism of this course.

The economy is in a state of collapse. The decline is of a greater magnitude than during the war. In just the past five months it has reached 35 percent compared with last year. Industry Minister Titkin said in the Supreme Soviet that slump scenarios of as much as 50 percent are already being envisaged!

Finally, the very latest and most important result of our president's activities is the destruction of the state. Even if Yeltsin had done nothing bad these two years, if everything had been fine, the president would never be forgiven by God on the Day of Judgment for the mere fact that by making a deal with the presidents of Byelarus and Ukraine in the Belovezhskaya Forest he deliberately destroyed our state. He did not create that state, he did not defend it in the Great Patriotic War. It was my father who went to the front in 1941 and fought for a united country. Along with another 27 million Soviet people.

The consequences of the destruction of the Union, which the "Rossiya" deputies' faction warned about, are becoming increasingly apparent to an increasing number of people. The current carnage in Bendery and Tskhinvali is entirely the responsibility of the destroyers of the united state and is a direct result of the so-called Yeltsin-Kozyrev foreign policy.

As a Russian [russkiy], I will never forgive Yeltsin for having left 25 million of my Russian blood-brothers (if you add to that the so-called russophones, you get a grand total of 30 million ethnic Russians [rossiyane]!) abroad with a flourish of the pen in the Belovezhskaya Forest, turning them into people without a homeland, stateless people with no right to their native language and normal cultural development, in fact without any rights at all.

We have said and will continue to say that there are two paths of development. Either we have a united state within the 1945 borders—that is the bottom line for us—or there will begin a long period of social upheavals. And not because I or a Sidorov or Petrov want it, but because it is an objective process—no one can prevent it. Human beings, peoples will see the light sooner or later and life itself will nudge them toward unity, toward gathering the country together.

The destruction of the Union had a direct effect on Russia's security. An unprecedented sabotage operation has been carried out against our country and the Russian people, which has set Russia back four centuries.

Under the current president Russia has begun to betray its allies. We have essentially abandoned foreign policy independence and are following in the wake of the U.S. course. More and more Russia is becoming a U.S. puppet. B. Yeltsin sanctioned the UN vote for measures against Serbia and Montenegro. The latest decision caused our patience to run out, and we, 17 opposition bloc deputies, put out a statement on the resignation of the government and the president. We realize that the presidential impeachment procedure is a very long and complex process. But we are not extremists. We do not want to bring society to the barricades; that is not our way. But we believe that it is necessary to tell the country's citizens and the world community honestly and frankly that our president has lost credibility among political forces. And, I venture to suggest, among the people.

We believe we are entitled to directly address all who cherish Russia's future. Our country's citizens will continue to suffer while they, together with us, the deputies, make many mistakes which we must have the courage to admit. In fact, they are in a daze, as a result of the freedom, as a result of the promises, as a result of being able to turn round and spit on their past. We have been dancing on graves for six years. We have been trampling on the remains of our fathers and grandfathers for six years. For six years we have been behaving like slavering madmen, gleefully rummaging among our fathers' and grandfathers' mistakes, without analyzing our own. It is a terrible sin and God will punish us for it...

I have less and less faith in our parliamentary body, less and less faith that with one step more we will manage to make people change their minds, to show them. A loaf of bread now costs R [rubles] 13 in Moscow, only recently it cost R6. Have wages doubled? How much longer do we have to wait? For all the pensioners to die off?

I want citizens to realize that without their active support at such a crucial time politicians, even the most remarkable ones, will accomplish nothing.

This brings me back to the folly perpetrated in Washington. No, I am not urging non-observance of the Constitution, but unless the Supreme Soviet manages to denounce the agreements concluded by the president, then I say in all earnestness that Russian red brigades will emerge. The state security system is nonexistent. The country is stuffed with chemical and nuclear weapons. The storm could begin here tomorrow, and then the rallies at Ostankino will look like child's play.

Finally, you must appreciate this. You must not bring the people to their knees in this way.

Nuclear Expert Urges Retention of Deterrent

PM2406115892 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Yuriy Trutnev, first deputy scientific leader at Arzamas-16, by S. Ivanov and Ye. Umerenkov, at 'recent' international conference on "The Democratization of Society and Military Security"; place and date not given: "How Many Guns You Need To Ensure That They Are Not Fired"]

[Text] Apparently the doctrine of "reasonable sufficiency" is taking possession of the minds of our politicians and nuclear scientists.

Many of our nuclear scientists who until recently were "top secret" took part for the first time in the recent international conference on "The Democratization of Society and Military Security." One of them was Yuriy Trutnev, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences and first deputy scientific leader from Arzamas-16. Immediately after delivering his report he found himself surrounded by guests from the United States.

"Where are the plants where nuclear weapons are assembled? Pinsk? Chelyabinsk?"—one American kept asking.

"I don't really know," our academician replied.

The guest did not give up: "How is your work on third-generation nuclear weapons going?"

"How is yours going?"

"In our country they say it's of no interest."

"It's of no interest in our country either."

The American nodded understandingly. In view of his lack of success, we continued the "interrogation."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Yuriy Alekseyevich, what are the limits nowadays on how candid our nuclear experts are with their colleagues from the United States? Who asks most questions: them or you?

[Trutnev] They ask a lot of questions, but they don't answer all ours. True, we aren't always in a great hurry to answer theirs either. Although compared with the way it used to be, we are far more open. But within limits, of course. So as not to do anything detrimental to the country's defense capability or violate commitments relating to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

You know, too many items on nuclear weapons, including purely specialized items, now appear in the open American press. And I think they often contain information contrary to nonproliferation commitments. In this respect we show considerably more restraint than the Americans.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Isn't this the result of our old desire to keep absolutely everything secret?

[Trutnev] It is simply a sense of responsibility. You can see that secrecy has been reduced markedly here, even foreigners come to visit us now...But there are things we simply can't talk about if we don't want nuclear weapons to proliferate across the world.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] They say the range of the SS-20 is sufficient for a missile from Baghdad to reach Lugansk...

[Trutnev] Yes, it's sufficient. Anything is possible, theoretically. Theoretically, it is possible to buy nuclear experts too.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is it not the case that the process of disarmament of the two nuclear superpowers, combined with the possibility of Third World countries making a nuclear bomb, is making global security less safe than in the days of the "stable" confrontation of recent years?

[Trutnev] One thing I am sure of is that a nuclear conflict is hardly likely to break out between us and Europe. They have too good a life, too much to lose. And we have no reason to make war on them. They need us and we need them, provided, of course, that they don't regard us solely as a source of raw materials. But there are still plenty of reasons for crises in the world. For instance, how many people can the earth feed? We once asked the Americans: Can you guarantee that all countries will have your standard of living? They replied: No. So there is your source of conflict.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Bombs as a deterrent. But how many do you need for that purpose?

[Trutnev] Formerly, only a large number of nuclear weapons allowed us to hope that even given the destruction of 90 percent or more of our own systems (as I understand it, we did not intend to inflict the first strike), the potential would be preserved for a retaliatory strike. So that is how it was—a race. Now the situation is different, the political guidelines have changed, and neither we nor the Americans need such a quantity of weapons. But the process of reductions should be bilateral and proceed on a basis of parity.

I believe it is necessary for nuclear weapons to be a deterrent, but in such a way as to have the least possible effect on the civilian population, that is, we should make them battlefield weapons. New tasks make new demands on the means of nuclear deterrence. I am talking about third-generation nuclear weapons, which were already being developed [razrabatyvalos] in our country. I hope there will be a fourth generation too...

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] So to whom should this threat of unacceptable damage be "addressed"?

[Trutnev] As I understand it, Russia has not yet finally formulated a military doctrine, a concept for arms systems. At the same time we no longer say: Here is a specific enemy. This means that defense is necessary in all salients, taking into account the changing political situation in the world. Where, from what quarter, a threat could arise—that is a matter for the politicians and diplomats. But we have to have guarantees of defense, guarantees of deterrence. The Russian president stated recently that our missiles are not now targeted on the United States. But the Americans confirmed that their missiles are still targeted on us. That's politics for you. We propose one thing, they say another.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But maybe the very existence of nuclear weapons is an obstacle to confidence?

[Trutnev] First, the process of creating and strengthening confidence cannot be very sudden. Although recently the possibility of nuclear conflict has certainly lessened considerably. Second, what do people mean when they say: Let's ban nuclear weapons and think of something else that could act as a deterrent. And replace nuclear weapons with some other mass destruction weapon? Some peacemakers! Nuclear weapons are political weapons, and the very fact of possessing them forces a possible adversary to consider whether it is worth his while to attack, to start a conflict.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] So for the time being nuclear terror is a "good thing" that we cannot do without?

[Trutnev] Do you know what their attitude to this is in America? They are proud to have carried out an impressive nuclear project, and the Livermore and Los Alamos laboratories are seen as a national asset. In our case, nuclear centers are apparently the source of all our ills—they stripped the country bare, they made enemies of practically the whole world. What are we, misanthropists, or what? We fulfilled our duty honorably, strengthening defense capability in the context of the political realities that existed at the time. Go and ask the politicians, those who created this confrontation! What were we supposed to do, give up work?

That is not how we were raised. Even Sakharov worked with enthusiasm. But now they cast us as the enemy: Those nuclear scientists, they're to blame. It's not true. We are in favor of reductions, in favor of an eventual ban on nuclear weapons. But you have to act on the basis of realities: When the world community is integrated to a sufficient degree, then the question of nuclear weapons will disappear.

Consequences of Semipalatinsk Tests Considered

LD2306191992 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] In order to eliminate the consequences of nuclear explosions, the Cabinet of Ministers has made a decision on additional measures to implement the president's decree on the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test range.

It has been decided to resolve within two months questions on the declassification of materials concerning the radio-ecological and medical-biological situation on the territory of the former test range and other regions in the republic where tests were held of nuclear or thermonuclear weapons. Information will also be declassified on tne consequences of the effects of the tests on people, animals, and the environment.

The following have been declared ecological disaster zones: all rayons of Semipalatinsk Oblast; the towns of Semipalatinsk and Kurchatov; Glubokovskiy, Zaysanskiy, Tavricheskiy, Tarbagatayskiy, Ulanskiy, and Shemonaikhinskiy rayons and the town of Ust-Kamenogorsk in East Kazakhstan Oblast; Yegindybulakskiy and Karkaralinskiy rayons of Karaganda Oblast; and Bayanaulskiy, Lebyazhinskiy, and Mayskiy rayons of Pavlodar Oblast.

The status of territories which have suffered and of citizens having the right to receive benefits and compensation for the damage caused to their health as a result of the tests will be determined.

It is envisaged to draw up a draft law on the social protection of those who have suffered from nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk test range and other nuclear explosions carried out on the republic's territory.

The decision outlines a number of measures for cleaning up the negative consequences of the nuclear tests and envisages bringing in under mutually advantageous conditions investments and advanced technologies of foreign states.

The document will be published in full in the republican press.

Future Plans Detailed

LD2306130392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 gmt 23 Jun 92

[Text] The Semipalatinsk nuclear testing range has been reorganized into the national nuclear center of Kazakhstan. Its employees will be engaged in developing nuclear safety measures and technologies for burial of nuclear waste. They will also be involved in Kazakhstan's program to build a network of nuclear power stations. Three experimental nuclear reactors and equipment for work with fissile materials are now at the disposal of scientists, RIKA reports.

Comparison of Grachev on Arms Cuts Accords

CM2506152392

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 23 June 1992 carries on pages one and two an interview with Russian Defense Minister Grachev on the strategic arms accords. Comparison of the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA item, entitled "'Decision Was Not Impulsive,'" with the IZVESTIYA version published in the 23 June Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT beginning on page 2 reveals the following variations:

Page 3, column one, first partial paragraph, last sentence KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reads: "...offensive arms cuts.

In our opinion, the option which forms the basis of the agreements is entirely acceptable. Of course, it..." (picking up next paragraph, rewording)

sixth full paragraph, sentence two KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reads: "In my view, it corresponded to the bygone times of confrontation. It could be..." (rewording)

column two, first full paragraph, antepenultimate sentence KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reads: "So there is the temptation to destroy with a smaller number of warheads the larger number of warheads..." (rewording)

same paragraph, penultimate sentence KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reads: "...to launch them.

Following the reduction..." (picking up next paragraph, omitting sentence)

Page 4, column one, fifth paragraph, last sentence KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reads: "...offensive arms cuts.

I would like to wind up by saying that the Russian Armed Forces' main task is to guarantee our state's sovereignty, integrity, and independence. And we will resolve it." (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ends, adding paragraph)

Black Sea States Hold Meeting in Istanbul

Turkey's Demirel Remarks

LD2406142892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara June 24 TASS—The creation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone meets interests of all participant countries of this project, Prime Minister of Turkey Suleyman Demirel told a news conference. The prime minister expressed confidence that the economic union of the Black Sea region states will make a significant contribution to the development of mutually beneficial ties among countries of the region.

The signing ceremony of documents concerning the creation of the Black Sea economic zone, in which heads of states and governments of a number of countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova are to take part, is planned for June 25 in Istanbul. As an initiator of the Black Sea project, Turkey strives to create a "climate of confidence and prosperity" in this area of the world," the Turkish premier pointed out. A meeting of representatives of Turkey and republics of Central Asia will be held on June 30 within the framework of the Black Sea economic zone, in order to discuss the role and place of these countries in the community to be created, he said.

Yugoslav Participation Questionable

OW2406133292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yugoslavia's participation in the Istanbul conference of the Black Sea States which is to begin on Thursday [25 June] and which is expected to produce the Declaration on Black-Sea Economic Cooperation, is still an open issue, a Russian diplomat told DP [Diplomatic Panorama].

He said that the Yugoslavia which took part in drafting the documents of the Istanbul conference is a thing of the past.

Whether or not it will participate in this conference may be decided right in Istanbul, he said.

Delegations Arrive

LD2406185892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Istanbul June 24 TASS—Leaders of Black Sea states are arriving in Istanbul to take part in the summit on economic cooperation in the region due to begin on Thursday [25 June]. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Azerbaijanian President Abulfaz Elchibey, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur have already arrived. Taking part in the summit will be also Russia, Turkey, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria and Georgia.

Yeltsin Arrives, Comments

LD2406202992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1950 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yalchin Ali-Zade, Vladimir Malyshev, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Istanbul, 24 Jun—In Istanbul tomorrow there will be a meeting of the presidents of Ukraine, Moldova, Russia, and Romania to discuss the situation in the Dniester region. This was stated by Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, when he arrived here this evening to take part in a top-level meeting on economic cooperation between the countries of the Black Sea basin.

Answering journalists' questions at the airport, B. Yeltsin announced that by agreement between the presidents, the meeting will be held during the intervals of the Istanbul Economic Forum.

The Russian president also announced that shortly before leaving for Istanbul, he and Eduard Shevardnadze signed an agreement on the principles for a settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. He stressed that it is a very serious document. We remained seated for a fairly long time, but nevertheless we did find a solution on how to end the bloodshed and end the firing. I consider that it is a first, very good, and serious step toward eliminating the conflict. We agreed to sign an extensive and major political treaty between Georgia and Russia.

B. Yeltsin said that Turkey's initiative in holding the meeting in Istanbul was "very interesting". He noted that it will help to strengthen cooperation between the countries of the former Soviet Union and other countries of the Black Sea basin.

Further on Issues

LD2506083792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 26 Jun 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is in Istanbul to attend today's meeting of heads of states and governments of the countries of the Black Sea basin. Solutions to ethnic and territorial problems are expected to be discussed at the meeting.

Yeltsin will also meet the presidents of Moldova, Ukraine, and Romania. Ways to settle the conflict in the Dniestr region will be discussed. The Romanian leader, Iliescu, said yesterday that the withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army from Moldova should be the key to solving the problem.

A meeting is possible between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the Karabakh problem. Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Abulfaz Elchibey have stated they are ready to hold for direct talks.

Romanian Spokesman Comments

LD2406161492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest June 24 TASS—The forthcoming meeting of the Moldovan, Romanian, Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers in Istanbul on a settlement in Moldova's eastern areas is well prepared and "we hope that recommendations hammered out by the expert commission will be adopted", said Romanian Foreign Ministry spokesman Traian Chebeleu at a news conference on Wednesday [24 June], replying to ITAR-TASS.

The gist of these recommendations, which will be possibly considered by the presidents of the four countries, is to preclude any military operations and to settle all problems politically.

Chebeleu refuted a statement made by Grigoriy Marakutsa, parliament speaker of the breakaway Dniester Republic, at Tuesday's [23 June] news conference in Moscow, according to which "Romanian troops participate in combat operations in the region".

"Romania did not set forth such an aim and does not interfere in the military conflict in any way. These allegations are groundless," he stressed.

The spokesman also refuted speculations in the Romanian press that the aggravation of the Dniester conflict was caused by the departure from Moscow of Boris Yeltsin who was on a visit to the United States and Canada those days. "We have no information corroborating this thesis," Chebeleu added.

He stressed that the Russian-Ukrainian understandings reached at the Yeltsin-Kravchuk summit on Tuesday [23 June], will help to stabilise the situation in the region and favourably influence the settlement in the Dniester's left-bank areas.

Commenting on the statement by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk on granting autonomy to the Dniester region, the spokesman noted that the proposal "does not contain a rational idea".

"If we follow this road, we don't know where we shall come," Chebeleu said. In his opinion, many republics of the former USSR have many multinational regions whose populations "have different histories", and if each of them is granted an autonomy or federation, "we shall witness the emergence of many other states."

Therefore, Chebeleu stressed, the Romanian position remains intact: the preservation of Moldova's territorial integrity and observation of human rights, including those of national minorities proceeding from the requirements of international standards.

Turkish Leaders' Differences Noted

LD2506100792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yalchin Ali-Zade, Vladimir Malyshev and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Istanbul, 25 Jun—Turning the Black Sea basin into a major international center for interaction between the neighboring states—is the aim of the one-day summit meeting on economic cooperation between the countries of the region that opened here today. Those taking part are top leaders and delegations of Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Romania, and Albania. The Russian delegation is headed by President Boris Yeltsin. There are no representatives of the Yugoslav republics, where civil war is currenctly raging.

The official part of the meeting will be quite brief. Right after the opening speeches there will be a ceremony of signing a declaration on economic cooperation in the Black Sea area. The published draft of this document notes the upholding of the principles of the CSCE and the Paris Charter for a new Europe. The Black Sea must become the sea of peace, stability and prosperity, it says.

The idea of the meeting in Istanbul belongs to Turkey, which two years ago put forward a draft document on large-scale economic cooperation between the countries of the Black Sea basin. Local observers describe it as a precondition for creating a kind of a Black sea "common market." However, reportedly, right before the meeting, differences arose between Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel on problems relating to domestic policy. The president refused to take part in the meeting and has left for his summer residence. There are fears here that this turn of events may affect the forum negatively.

Istanbul is expected to become a venue for some other important international meetings. Boris Yeltsin said on 24 June that the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Romania had agreed to hold a meeting here to discuss the Dniestr region conflict. Late last night Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian State Council Chairman, arrived in Istanbul. There had been doubts about his arrival until the very last moment because of the events in Tbilisi. As the ITAR-TASS correspondent heard, the Georgian leader met Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk early today.

Yeltsin Speaks on Cooperation

LD2506140592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1326 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Yalchin Ali Zade, and correspondents Vladimir Malyshev and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Istanbul, 25 Jun—Russia has consistently supported the idea of creating the Black Sea zone of cooperation and prosperity, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin said. He spoke at the summit meeting on economic cooperation between countries of the Black Sea basin which has opened here today. The president noted that the spheres for interaction that were outlined in the declaration to be adopted in Istanbul is of great importance for our country. We believe that in embarking on practical measures, we and our partners together will manage to attain a qualitatively different level of interaction in the spheres of transport, communications, power engineering, agriculture, health, and other spheres.

Boris Yeltsin said that Russian entrepreneurs are interested in working with their partners in the countries of this region. Thus, today the non-government association "Black Sea Cooperation" has already embarked on the implementation of joint investment projects in the area of the Black Sea. The association of free economic zones has been working out a project for creating a customs union for the towns of the Black Sea coast. Commercial structures are working out the idea of creating transnational stock exchanges in the framework of East European and Black Sea countries. Scientists are working on the project for creating an independent international information and consultative center on problems of the Black Sea.

Cooperation in the Black Sea area, the president continued, is also important for us from a political point of view. On the scale of Russia's priorities in foreign policy, interaction with our nearest neighbors occupies a high place. We want to strengthen peace and stability in this region so that the Black Sea can always unite peoples and so that its coasts can be peaceful and open for many-sided cooperation.

In our view it is also highly significant that the declaration precisely lays down principles that correspond entirely to the provisions of the CSCE Final Act and the Paris Charter for a new Europe. There is every reason to view Black Sea cooperation as a highly important integral part of the European process, as an important practical step toward realization of the ideas enshrined in it on the southeastern flank of the CSCE.

Boris Yeltsin pointed out the important role which the regular meetings of heads of foreign policy departments from the participating countries are meant to play in analyzing the situation in the region, summing up results, and determining new directions for cooperation. Russia and Turkey are putting forward a joint initiative for the formation of a Black Sea interparliamentary assembly, which would bring a new dimension to our cooperation and would facilitate amendments to the legislation of states in the Black Sea basin.

Black Sea economic cooperation, without doubt, has good prospects and it is important to do everything possible to make it a reality, the president of the Russian Federation noted.

Economic Declaration Signed

LD2506124892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] In Istanbul today leaders of Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Romania, and Albania signed a Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation. The document notes that the Black Sea must become a sea of peace, stability, and prosperity. The declaration confirms the determination of the countries that have signed it to resolve regional conflicts peacefully, the AFP agency reports. Speaking today at the Istanbul meeting, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated that this economic cooperation between Black Sea countries has good prospects. It is important to do everything so that prospects become reality. We wish to strengthen peace and stability in this region so that the Black Sea will always unite peoples, and its shores will be open for all around cooperation, noted Boris Yeltsin.

Kravchuk, Shevardnadze Sign Economic Accord

LD2506134992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1311 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, 25 Jun (ITAR-TASS-UKRINFORM)—A meeting was held here today between Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze. In the course of a warm friendly conversation an agreement was reached on drawing up and signing an interstate economic agreement in the near future in Tbilisi. A decision was also adopted to draw up a large-scale political treaty. In all probability it will be signed in the fall.

The leaders of Ukraine and Georgia are staying in Istanbul for a summit conference on economic cooperation between the countries of the Black Sea basin.

U.S., British Officers Meet With CIS Navy

LD2406094492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 24 TASS—A three-sided commission of Naval experts from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the U.S. and Britain has begun its work at the main headquarters of the CIS Navy.

This meeting is one of the first contacts among the military of the three powers following the signing of a charter for Russian-U.S. partnership and friendship by the presidents of the U.S. and Russia, Rear-Admiral Valeriy Aleksin, CIS Chief Naval Officer, told ITAR-TASS. The charter spells out the need to give a boost to cooperation in defence matters.

The purpose of the naval experts' meeting is to add substance to the charter provisions concerning the expansion of the circle of activities, encouraging openness in operational matters, Admiral Aleksin said.

Therefore the expert delegations of the three states are led by deputy chiefs of Naval staff of the CIS, the U.S. and Britain in charge of operational matters.

On the Russian delegation are representatives of the main headquarters of CIS Navy and the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The U.S. delegation, led by Rear-Admiral George Baker, deputy chief of Naval operations, includes representatives of Brown University, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and the British delegation is led by Rear-Admiral Richard Cobbold, deputy chief of the Naval staff.

The members of the three-sided commission are to visit the Northern Fleet in the coming days.

TASS Journalists From Bonn Department Strike

Demand Resignation

LD2406202292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0425 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Semenov and Mikhail Stepovik]

[Text] Bonn, 24 Jun—Correspondents of the Bonn department of ITAR-TASS who are not members of the special services have gone on strike. From today on, no news from them will reach the agency. Journalists are demanding the resignation of Vyacheslav Kevorkov, head of the regional center in Germany and Austria, who is a high-ranking official of the KGB of the former USSR. In the last few years he occupied the post of deputy general director of TASS. They also want the elimination in the agency of posts designated for special services staff under the cover of the credentials of ITAR-TASS correspondents.

Open Letter Issued

LD2406222592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0445 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Semenov and Mikhail Stepovik]

[Excerpts] Bonn, 24 Jun—Correspondents of the Bonn Department of ITAR-TASS who are not members of the special services have gone on strike. [passage omitted]

We who have worked in the agency for quite a few years found it very difficult to make the decision to strike, says an open letter from the correspondents of the collegium of ITAR-TASS. What is happening before our very eyes leaves us with no other option. After the August events of 1991 we, like the majority of our TASS colleagues, believed that an irreversible process of change would begin in the agency. However, in our view, that has not happened. The Bonn Department could serve as evidence of this.

It was immediately after the failed coup that 69-year-old V. Kevorkov arrived in Germany, having managed, with the help of old contacts, to carve himself a new post as head of the regional center in the FRG and Austria. This occurred despite the fact that his unsavory role in the days of the coup had already been written about by the central press (KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, August 1991).

Settled into his "cosy niche" in Bonn, V. Kevorkov displayed the most utter incompetence as head of a foreign department of ITAR-TASS and in particular as a TASS journalist. His stay in the FRG has aready cost the agency, which is suffering an acute shortage of foreign currency, more than 100,000 German marks. The so-called commercial activity with which he conceals his incompetence has not yet brought the ITAR-TASS coffers a single pfennig.

Amid the sharp cut in the number of foreign correspondents owing to the lack of foreign currency, V. Kevorkov's absolutely useless and expensive tour of duty in Bonn can be put down to one thing—the powerful support from the old party-state nomenklatura, in particular ITAR-TASS General Director Vitaliy Ignatenko.

This graphically demonstrates the double morality of the present management of the agency which in words appeals for work to be done in the new way, but in actions, tries to preserve the old system, including the cadres which have compromised themselves.

Correspondents of the Bonn Department are against cadre officials of the special services, who discredit the reputation of one of the leading world agencies, continuing to operate under the "roof" of ITAR-TASS. Despite the promises of the general director to study this question and to take measures, the 'investigation' has been going on for almost a year. Meanwhile, the number of members of the KGB of the former USSR on the central staff of ITAR-TASS has actually grown.

The agency's leadership did not even attempt to make use of one of the earliest declarations by Yevgeniy Primakov, the head of Russia's foreign intelligence, that a press pass should not be used as a cover for a spy. All this makes one thing clear: in the Russian state agency ITAR-TASS, the old order still reigns supreme and the former party and state nomenklatura still sets the tone for its activities.

It is exactly for this reason that the agency is in need of drastic personnel changes both in the central staff and abroad. Only then will ITAR-TASS be able to work in a new way and to its full capacity, being of maximum use to the Russian Federation and its citizens.

Note for recipients: if this dispatch is withdrawn by ITAR-TASS, it will not mean that the strike has ended.

Chief Editor Makes Rebuttal

LD2506013792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Statement issued by ITAR-TASS Chief Editor Vitaliy Chukseyev; date and place not given; "ITAR-TASS correspondents in Bonn are violating their professional ethics by using the agency circuit for their personal ends"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] This morning, a report by two correspondents from the agency's Bonn office appeared on ITAR-TASS stating that these workers have announced a strike. The authors of this report, who like many other ITAR-TASS foreign correspondents, have been given the right—with the aim to improve the speed of the news agency—to communicate materials directly to agency subscribers, bypassing editing in Moscow, explain that the motive behind their decision to strike is the demand for the resignation of the head of the office, and they are also in favor of "the elimination of posts in the agency earmarked for those working in the secret services."

Of course, whether to strike or not is a matter of conscience and professional honor for each journalist. It is also well-known that no collective, including a journalists' collective, can ensure against internal conflicts, however, the action by A. Semenov and M. Stepovik is a special case. It can scarcely be viewed as a coincidence that it has been undertaken literally a few weeks before their return to Moscow at the end of their postings. Incidentally, these postings had already expired, but both of the authors tearfully asked the agency leadership to extend them, citing their family circumstances. Their request was granted. The question involuntarily arises: Has their current decision to stage this "patriotic" strike been dictated by their discontent at the prospect of the imminent return they do not want? Is this not the reason why they embarked upon this crude violation of professional ethics and elementary production discipline and used the agency for personal goals for the "clarification of relations"?

Incidentally, in trying to represent the affair in another light, the two authors have tried to lend a political ring to their action, resorting in doing so to lies and slander against the agency for which one of them has worked for 19 years and the other for 13. A period, let it be said, of some considerable time during which dissatisfaction with one or another of the agency practices could have been expressed long ago. It is superfluous to say that, at least publicly, they have never expressed any such dissatisfaction, and, of course, they have never put the relevant questions either to the agency leadership or to their labor collective.

Regarding the essence of the authors belated claims against the agency, in particular about members of the secret services working there, then regarding the recent past they have not made any great discovery. If we are speaking of the present day, then it could be that A. Semenov and M. Stepovik, who as a result of their lengthy sojourn abroad, could possibly have become cut off from the current state of affairs in their own land, do not know that the situation has changed fundamentally. Of course, our "denouncers," had they so desired, could, without great difficulty, have learned that the current ITAR-TASS leadership, taking the initiative, has adopted the necessary measures for dismissing secret service employees from the agency, and that this process has practically been completed. V. Kevorkov, the head of the Bonn office, is also not currently connected with the secret services as he retired several years ago. The two authors should have been aware of this last fact, but judging from everything, facts are of no great interest to them.

The first demand for news—and it is well known both to journalists and readers alike—is its veracity and objectivity. It remains only to deplore that in this respect our two colleagues have, to put it mildly, proved to not observe the highest standards, and also to deplore the fact that they have abused the trust—their right to directly, and free from any control by the Moscow editorial office, put news out on the agency circuit—with the particular aim of crude disinformation. This is hardly for the good of the agency, in the interests of and for the authority of which the two strikers claim to be acting. It is also a pity that during a fairly difficult time for all of us, our colleagues in some branches of the media have made haste to use these unverified facts.

[Signed] Vitaliy Chukseyev, editor in chief of the ITAR-TASS foreign news agency

Commentary on Israeli Officer's Remarks on Iran

NC2006074192 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Sergey Viktorov commentary]

[Text] Iranian Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari stated in an interview with Iranian correspondents that Iran is ready to face any aggression if Israel resorts to adventurism against Iran. Radio Moscow analyst Sergey Viktorov has written the following on this:

Maj. Gen. Sattari obviously made this statement in response to remarks by Israeli Air Force Commander General Herzl Bodinger, who had claimed that Iran is a growing source of danger for Israel because Iran will become a nuclear power in the next 10 years unless it is stopped.

Gen. Bodinger's threat, of course, was not only aimed at Tehran. According to him, Israel is ready to resort to all means—diplomatic and military—to prevent the manufacture of nuclear arms in the Middle East.

As for Iran, it should be noted that, as stated by official Iranian representatives, all of Iran's nuclear institutions are working only for peaceful purposes. An International

Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] delegation which visited Iran a few months ago confirmed the peaceful intentions of Iran's nuclear program. However, the same cannot be assured about Israel, because there are periodic reports that Israel has a nuclear bomb or has almost completed production of such a bomb.

It is unlikely Israel will conclude that Iran or any other regional country will hesitate in manufacturing nuclear arms, because everyone remembers how the Israeli Air Force bombed and destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor 11 years ago without any qualms, while as far as international law is concerned, it is unlikely that Israel is ready to repeat such an operation. [sentence as heard]

Meanwhile, there is no doubt that nuclear proliferation, especially in an explosive area such as the Near and Middle East, is extremely dangerous not only for Israel, but for the entire region. But why does Israel grant itself the right to carry out the duties of an international arbitrator and the executer of a court's decision? This is the special and unique right of international organizations and, first and foremost, of the United Nations. Only the United Nations and the IAEA have the right to obstruct a country's nuclear programs, and then only if it is proven that the country involved has violated the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Only the United Nations can impose sanctions against such a country or aggressor, such as Iraq.

Israel's usual policy of resorting to unilateral preemptive strikes one day may harm Israel itself, because it is not unlikely a neighbor someday will conclude that the Israeli experts' investigations and activities or Israeli industrial innovations threaten it, and it will conduct a preemptive strike against Israel. I think that if this happens, Israel will retaliate, and it is very likely a war will break out. Therefore, why is Israel provoking others?

'Preliminary Agenda' for CIS Meeting Reported

LD2506060392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0558 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, June 25 TASS—The preliminary agenda of the meeting of CIS heads of government scheduled for Friday [26 June] consists of 19 items, TASS learned from sources close to the Russian Government.

It includes the following items:

1. On coordination of activities and protection of interests of states of the rouble zone in case they introduce national currencies.

2. On the increase of tariffs on passenger and cargo transportation among the CIS states.

3. On the creation of an inter-state TV company in the form of a joint-stock enterprise.

4. On cooperation in health services.

5. On rules of transfer abroad of pensions and on voluntary insurance of additional pensions.

6. On joint efforts to solve the problems of the Aral Sea, to eliminate the consequences of the Spitak (Armenia) earthquake and the Chernobyl disaster.

7. On protection and utilisation of biological resources of the Caspian Sea.

8. On mutual recognition of property rights to objects built at the expense of states—members of the Commonwealth.

9. On creating a commission which will work out an agreement on dividing non-combat ocean-going ships.

10. On mutual obligations in providing social welfare benefits and guarantees to people living and working, or who earlier worked in the extreme north and similar regions.

11. On financing of the herald of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth.

12. On providing radar identification of air, surface craft and ground objects equipped with identification devices of the "Parol" system.

13. On providing information for the system of management and protection of secrets of border guard troops of the Commonwealth.

14. On providing health services to the military and their families, the personnel of the border guard troops of the Commonwealth.

15. On rules and amounts of paying duties to the budget for financing border guard troops of the Commonwealth.

16. On cooperation in peaceful use of atomic energy.

17. On coordination of work on issues of export control.

18. On inter-state exchange of scientific and technical information.

19. On free exchange of economic information.

Amendments may be introduced to the agenda at a meeting of the working group in Minsk on Thursday. The final agenda will be determined by heads of state on Friday.

General on Military Aspects of Dagomys Talks

LD2406131692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By Andrey Naryshkin, ITAR-TASS observer on military issues]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jun (TASS)—One of the most important issues discussed at the Russian-Ukrainian summit meeting in Dagomys was the status of the Commonwealth strategic forces deployed on the territory of the Ukraine. Today in a conversation with the ITAR- TASS observer, Lieutenant General Ivashov, secretary of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers, noted the fact that of late many unclear points have arisen with regard to these forces both on the part of the Ukraine and on the part of the commanders in chief of the CIS joint armed forces and of the Russian Federation. In particular there are differences regarding issues of administration of the Commonwealth strategic forces, bringing them up to strength, swearing of allegiance, and ensuring the security of the strategic nuclear missile complexes.

All these problems were the subject of discussion in Dagomys on the level of ministers of defense, ministers of foreign affairs, and experts of the two states. The common approach of the sides to them was sufficiently constructive, Lieutenant General Ivashov thinks. And although accord was not reached on all aspects, nevertheless progress is obvious. It is already important that Russia and Ukraine have come to an undertanding of each other's problems, they have agreed to resume the talks on strategic forces. Thus, already on 2 July in Moscow, the day before the start of the routine sitting of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers, the military delegations of Russia and the Ukraine are to meet. Together with the commanders- in-chief of the CIS joint Armed Forces they will draw up draft documents on the Commonwealth strategic forces for examination by the heads of state, and some of the questions will possibly be resolved even at their level.

I think, Leonid Ivashov said, that we will reach an understanding on the need for the united administration of the strategic forces. This is also important because the dual subordination of them—on which the Ukrainian side insists—erodes the responsibility of specific officials and specific states for nuclear safety before the world community and their own peoples.

Common approaches toward the matter of implementing the treaty on strategic offensive weapons were also successfully found in Dagomys. In particular, Russia and Ukraine agreed to take additional measures to enable this treaty to be ratified in the near future and also to inform one another about steps in the sphere of strategic arms limitation.

As far as the Black Sea Fleet is concerned, specific accords on this were not expected at the Dagomys meeting, only the principles for the division of its forces and property were under discussion. But the very fact that the sides came to an understanding of the need to create both Russian and Ukrainian navies on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet represents, in Leonid Ivashov's opinion, some progress. I think that the state delegations of Russia and Ukraine which are conducting the negotiations process in this sphere will be able to decide the ratios by which the fleet will be divided, what its status will be, and the conditions under which it will be based, the secretary of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers concluded.

Admiral Welcomes Black Sea Fleet Agreement

LD2506014992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Report by Radio Moscow military observer Aleksandr Yakovlev in Russian with superimposed translation into English]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The uncertainty of the Black Sea Fleet's future and attempts to address directly the personnel plagued on the nerves and could not go on forever. For that reason the news of the agreement in principle concluded by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia has been received by the personnel of the Navy with relief. One of the participants in the Dagomys negotiations, First Deputy Commander of the CIS Navy Admiral Feliks Gromov, said the following:

[Begin Gromov recording in Russian with superimposed translation into English] It's very good that the leaders of Russia and Ukraine have found the time to discuss all problems awaiting solution. This is evidence of the desire of both countries to live in peace and accord. The agreement on the future of the Black Sea Fleet is evidence of this. Both Russia and Ukraine have their naval forces in the Black Sea. All details will be agreed on at future talks, and it's very important that there will be less uncertainty in the lives and minds of the men. [end recording]

Parties Prepare for Congress of Left Forces

LD2406131192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1236 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, Jun 24 TASS—A group of parties in the CIS countries stated the intention to prepare and hold an inter-state Congress of the Left Forces. The group includes the Communist Party of Byelarus, the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the Socialist Party of the Russian Working People and the Socialist Party of the Ukraine.

Gennadiy Sklyar, co-chairman of the Socialist Party of Russian Working People, told ITAR-TASS that the purpose of the planned measure is to create a mechanism for constant interaction movements expressing the interests of the working people and functioning in the territories of countries within the USSR. The working out of the programme of joint actions to overcome the crisis should be the main task of interaction.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 Jun

LD2506052692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0523 GMT 25 Jun 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 25 ITAR-TASS—Today's Moscow newspapers give broad coverage to the results of the meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Dagomys and the failure of the attempt by armed supporters of former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia to stage a coup d'etat.

Under the titles "Russian-Ukrainian reconciliation took place" and "The trouble teaches the need to live in harmony" the newspapers NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA feature respectively commentaries pointing out that it is the first time in recent months that Russia and Ukraine appeared to have a common platform on international and bilateral issues.

"Moscow and Kiev agreed to begin elaborating and eventually conclude a full-scale political treaty, agreed to divide the Black Sea Fleet in peace... Moreover, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Ukraine supports the disarmament agreement signed by the Russian and U.S. Presidents," ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA writes. It quotes Boris Yeltsin as saying that "the Russian side received this stance of Ukraine with great satisfaction."

The Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA singles out a report that "the main result of the Russian-Ukrainian talks was the signing of an agreement to develop inter-states links." It also highlights Kravchuk's statement in his interview with this newspaper where he says that "the Dagomys agreement will signal a turning point in relations between the two great states, the turn that should bring us to a fully-fledged and equitable inter-state level."

The newspaper PRAVDA, commenting on the results of the meeting, writes in turn that "if one is to judge by outward signs—journalists do not know the details in virtue of the particularly secret nature of talks—the results can even be gladdening."

As regards the abortive coup attempt in Tbilisi, newspapers published the text of Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze's appeal to the people and his interview with Georgian television, where he notes that the plotters have no longer any support in the country.

The press reports about talks between Yeltsin and Shevardnadze in Dagomys and their departure to Istanbul to sign an agreement to form a community of the Black Sea countries.

Commenting on the possible outcome of the Istanbul meeting, the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes that the meeting will evidently "legalise Turkey's leadership both in economic and political terms in the region. While objectivley more powerful Russia and Ukraine are sorting out their domestic problems, Turkey is not marking time. The role of the bridge between the East and the West has ceased to suit it. It seeks to play an increasingly active role in the region as well as in the world."

Newspapers continue to give prominent display to materials about continued armed clashes in the flashpoints of the former Soviet Union. They feature the summary of Wednesday's [24 June] resolution by the Dniester Supreme Soviet denouncing the incursion by Moldova's Army and other armed groups into the Dniester region. The resolution contains a call to the parliaments and governments of Russia and Ukraine for "recognising the Dniester Moldovian republic and act as the guarantors of ensuring its sovereignty and independence."

ROSSISKAYA GAZETA reports about the work of the fourth session of the Russian legislature, pointing out that deputies from the opposition bloc Russian Unity scuttled the adoption of the bill "On the federal security bodies". "Evidently, they favour strengthening statehood (at which the bill is aimed) only by word of mouth while in deed hamper these efforts and delay the adoption of this important law," the newspaper points out.

PRAVDA continues the journalistic investigation into the "tragic events" that occurred, as it contends referring to witness accounts, near the television centre in Ostankino on June 22. It reports about a meeting between journalists and G. Feklichev, acting head of the agency for the protection of public order of Moscow's Main Interior Ministry department. Feklichev described "the spread rumours about victims and hundreds of those suffered" during the break-up by OMON [special-purpose militia unit] officers of the participants in the action to picket Ostankino as "groundless".

International Affairs

More on Russian, Ukrainian Delegation Talks

Gaydar on Relations

MK2406110992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 92 p 1

[Interview with Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar by Vladimir Skachko under the "Talks" rubric; date and place not given; under the general heading: "Russia and Ukraine Reach Agreement Once Again"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk had a meeting 23 June. After a conversation lasting one hour—so Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, declared—negotiations began in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar answered questions from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent.

[Skachko] What do you expect of this meeting?

[Gaydar] I very much hope that we will manage to make progress in settling our economic problems. The results of the talks cannot be forecasted, for they depend, in my opinion, on how ready we are to make compromises. I would like us to be able to settle the question of the disbalance that has come about in reciprocal deliveries. During the first five months of this year, oil deliveries from Russia to Ukraine were fulfilled by 100 percent, coal deliveries practically by 100 percent, gold deliveries by more than 100 percent, and gas deliveries by more than 100 percent. Unfortunately, fulfillment of the five-month norm for the main commodities obtained from Ukraine stands at 37 percent for pipes and 31 percent for the remaining rolled metal goods. A very large imbalance has resulted and a deficit in Ukraine's balance of payments with Russia: approximately 100 billion rubles [R] over five months. Of course, we hope that these are temporary interruptions and that the situation can be rectified.

[Skachko] Ukraine can refer to the fact that in the past, Russia failed to give it R19 billion in cash.

[Gaydar] I believe that it is always possible to find reasons for undersupplying. We too could find reasons and not deliver oil to Ukraine, saying, for example, that we do not receive pipes. Therefore it is, nonetheless, better to try to ensure that deliveries are made.

[Skachko] Have you hopes of managing to regulate the system of reciprocal transactions?

[Gaydar] This is one of the most important questions for us. We fully understand Ukraine's desire to have its own currency. We have reached preliminary agreements with Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin and with his deputy, Vladimir Lanov, on mutual cooperation, versions of agreements have been worked out, and we are convinced that we will succeed in settling this question with Ukraine, just as with Estonia, and will arrive at a mutual agreement.

[Skachko] Dividing up the Black Sea Fleet is a very costly business. If this happens, how will it affect the state of the economy?

[Gaydar] I believe that we must now take as few costly steps in the military sphere as possible.

[Skachko] Are you finding allies in Ukraine to implement your reforms?

[Gaydar] Do you mean important personalities [personalii]?

[Skachko] Yes.

[Gaydar] I would not want to interfere in Ukraine's internal affairs.

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Answer Questions

PM2406204192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jun 92 p 1

[Colonel O. Falichev report: "What Was Agreed in Dagomys. Our Special Correspondent Questions Yeltsin and Kravchuk"]

[Excerpts] The main result of the Russo-Ukrainian talks was the signing of the agreement on the further development of interstate ties. Given the somewhat cool relations between the two republics of late, this document came as a pleasant surprise to many of the journalists covering the talks. [passage omitted]

This KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent put some questions to the presidents of the two independent states. Do they believe that the agreement will have a favorable impact on the relationship between people in uniform who are serving on the republics' territories?

Yeltsin: "I believe that it will have a favorable impact on the feelings of our peoples as a whole—between whom relations have not been very smooth in recent months.... We met in order to resolve all the acute issues that there were. Therefore the most important thing is that the peoples of Russia, Ukraine, the other CIS countries, and of the world as a whole should breath easily. This will also affect the military. We recognized that each state has a right to set up its own armed forces and navy. As for strategic arms—we will reach agreement on that...."

Kravchuk: "I want to add just one phrase.... The Dagomys agreement marks the start of a radical—I'm not afraid of the word—turnaround in relations between two great states. A turnaround which should bring us to an interstate level that is equal and full-fledged. It should ensure protection of the people and joint actions on all the fundamental issues affecting both our states and the entire European and world community." [passage omitted]

More on Kravchuk's Remarks

LD2406180692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, June 24 TASS—The Russian and Ukrainian presidents agreed to set up a mechanism to control the implementation of accords and decisions and consult each other should any complications occur, according to Leonid Kravchuk.

The Ukrainian president, speaking at a news conference in Dagomys, commented on the signing of an agreement between Ukraine and Russia on the development of interstate relations.

Kravchuk said the focal point of his one-to-one conversation with President Yeltsin was what specific shifts are likely to occur in the mutual relations of the two countries following the signing of the agreement.

He said there are forces both in Russia and Ukraine interested in disrupting the accords. "I am against the left-wing and right-wing extremes," Kravchuk said, "as their aims coincide under certain circumstances. Any struggle for power entailing violation of the law will be suppressed in a constitutional fashion."

Kravchuk spoke about joint decisions made by Russia and Ukraine on economic and political issues, interethnic relations, military building, and nuclear disarmament. Accords were reached on practically every issue, Kravchuk stressed.

Touching upon the ways and pace of transition of the two countries to market relations, he stressed that each country would follow its own path.

Ukraine supports the Dniester Republic in its drive for becoming an autonomous republic within Moldova, the Ukrainian president stressed.

He said he sees Moldova as a unitary state. However, more than half-a-million Ukrainians live in the Dniester region and Ukraine cannot be disinterested with respect to what is happening near its borders. If Moldova and Romania unite, the people of the Dniester region should be given the right to decide on its fate autonomously, through a free expression of their will. In this event, Ukraine as a member of the United Nations could act as a guarantor that the Dniester problems were decided in accordance with international law. During the meeting in Dagomys, Russia also expressed readiness to act as a guarantor together with Ukraine.

Kravchuk said the Moldovan problem would be discussed with the leaders of the Moldovan Republic, Russia, and Romania in Istanbul on June 25.

Autonomous Dniester Republic Favored

AU2406095592 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Dniester issue was not examined in detail during yesterday's Russian-Ukrainian summit in Dagomys, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said yesterday during a news conference he gave after having conducted talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Radio Chisinau, which broadcast this news, added that—according to Kravchuk's statement—Ukraine favors an autonomous Dniester Republic within Moldova. Ukraine's president asserted that, quote, if the issue of Moldova's union with Romania is to be placed on the agenda, the people of the Dniester region should be granted the right to decide independently on its fate, unquote—Radio Chisinau reports.

'Compromise' Viewed

PM2406185792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jun 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Russia and Ukraine Reach Compromise in Dagomys"]

[Text] Dagomys—In the evening, before leaving for his residence from the "Dagomys" hotel complex, where Russo-Ukrainian talks had been held for nine hours, President B. Yeltsin addressed his official entourage: "Thank you for the work you have done. We have really done a lot of work today. Thank you to everyone."

The agreement between Russia and Ukraine on the further development of interstate relations signed by the presidents at the end of the talks contains many passages which would have seemed unlikely even yesterday. For instance, the document says that the two states have agreed and are embarking on the elaboration of a full-scale political treaty, and are striving to strengthen their common historical, cultural, and spiritual roots. They are demonstrating a readiness to take joint action to end interethnic conflicts in regions of concern to both states' interests, have agreed to protect the interests of Russians, Ukrainians, and citizens of other nationalities in our countries, and have reached agreement on preserving the principle of the openness of state borders—customs systems will be phased in, and citizens of both states will be guaranteed free access without visas.

The stumbling block at virtually all the CIS heads of state sessions was the question of the division of property, including property located abroad. At the Kiev meeting, for instance, Yeltsin refused point-blank to discuss this division—which prompted a corresponding reaction from L. Kravchuk. But now the Russian side has agreed to transfer to Ukraine some of the former USSR's property abroad.

The progress on army matters is worthy of particular attention. Since both states are setting up their own armed forces, they have agreed to set up a Russian Navy and a Ukrainian Navy based on the Black Sea Fleet. For the time being, they will jointly use and finance the Fleet. Servicemen drafted to the CIS Joint Armed Forces will take the oath to whichever of the two states whose citizens they are.

There has also been noticeable progress in the sphere of economic cooperation. As V. Mashchits, chairman of the state committee for ties with the CIS countries, said in an interview with IZVESTIYA, it has proved possible to formulate an approach to the very painful problem of settling payment obligations in connection with Ukraine's forthcoming transition to a national currency. It has been decided as of 1 July to register all noncash payments and establish a transitional period for clarifying debts and dividing up the noncash money supply.

There were also a lot of surprises at the concluding news conference. For instance, Kravchuk resolutely supported the agreements signed 17 June by Yeltsin and G. Bush on fundamental strategic offensive arms cuts, stressing that this step wholly coincides with Ukraine's position on the complete destruction of nuclear weapons. It also transpired that four presidents—from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania—will meet in Istanbul 25 June to find a political solution to the Dniester region problem. The previous afternoon Yeltsin had stated that no such meeting was planned.

Kravchuk set out his position on the Dniester region problem, noting that Ukraine advocates the rights of the residents of the Dniester region to set up an autonomous republic within Moldova. If there is no favorable outcome to the dispute, these people should be given the right to decide their fate themselves. Kravchuk and Yeltsin stated that Ukraine and Russia could be the guarantors of such a process.

The two presidents told journalists that, by mutual agreement, the Crimea problem was not discussed. Russia and Ukraine have no territorial claims against each other, which was recorded in the agreement.

To a question from IZVESTIYA's correspondent about Ukraine's traditionally 'special' position within the CIS and possible changes to it in the light of the results of the Dagomys meeting, Kravchuk replied as follows: "Ukraine has never been a destructive force within the CIS, we discussed the position in the Commonwealth today too. We need to set up an effective regulatory organ—a control commission which would be able to take the necessary measures with regard to states which do not carry out signed agreements." Yeltsin added that no decisions had been made on this issue for the sole reason that a CIS heads of state session will be held in Moscow 6 July and this meeting should bring some dynamism to the Commonwealth.

The explanation for the convergence of positions, judging by everything, should be sought in the sphere of the socioeconomic problems which both countries are facing—particularly Ukraine, whose economy is more vulnerable as a result of its limited resources.

While flexing their biceps, both Kiev and Moscow realize that confrontation could lead to unprecedented consequences. All the more so as blood is already being shed around them. Therefore the leaders have reached a sensible compromise.

Further on Ossetian Talks With Shevardnadze

Shevardnadze Arrives, Talks Begin

OW2406131992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov reports that Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Dagomys after an attempted coup in Georgia. [IZVESTIYA in Russian on 25 June page one in a similar report adds: "R. Khasbulatov, head of the parliament, is taking part in the talks on the Russian side. To an IZVESTIYA question about whether he had changed his position on events in South Ossetia, he replied with a brief: 'No.'"]

Thus, talks began involving Shevardnadze, President Yeltsin and the leaders of North and South Ossetia. At the request of the Georgian side, the talks on the situation in the Tskhinvali region will be confidential.

On Wednesday evening [24 June] President Yeltsin is expected to fly from Dagomys to Istanbul for a Black Sea conference to begin on Thursday [25 June]. In Istanbul he will also take part in the quadripartite talks on the situation in the Dniester region, involving the presidents of Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine

Fundamental Document Signed

LD2406164592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1523 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Our correspondents have fresh information about the Dagomys talks. Yuliy Semenov is on the line. Over to you, Yuliy:

[Semenov] Good evening, the main news is that a few minutes ago an agreement on a settlement of the conflict around South Ossetia was signed.

We have already reported that the talks took place not in Dagomys, as had been expected, but in Sochi, to save time. After all, today is an unusual day, especially taking into account the events in Georgia and the departure by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Eduard Ambrosyevich Shevardnadze for the conference in Istanbul tomorrow.

How did the talks go? Who took part in them? Russia was represented by President Yeltsin, Vice President Rutskoy, the defense minister, and the foreign minister. Georgia was represented by Shevardnadze, Kitovani, and Chikvaidze, who is the foreign minister. North Ossetia was represented by Galazov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and Khetagurov, head of the government. South Ossetia was represented by Kulumbegov, head of the republic, and Teziyev and Chochiyev.

The meeting began with a one-on-one conversation between President Yeltsin and Georgian State Council Chairman Shevardnadze. They had a private talk about problems which lasted about 40 minutes. However, according to unconfirmed reports here, a broad range of issues was discussed, not only relating to the South Ossetian situation. Then all the four delegations received draft documents, and they worked on summing them up. This ended in the signing of that fundamental document. It sets out the foundations for settling the conflict.

A control commission is in the process of being set up. The disengagement troops will be created. When the document is published, we will be able to fully assess the measure taken. However, the participants of the conference have assessed it positively. Obviously it will become a basis for another serious attempt to localize, to halt this conflict, and as Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said, to stop the bloodshed in that region. In addition, the leaderships of Russia and Georgia have reached an accord on embarking on and developing in the next month a serious and fundamental political treaty between Russia and Georgia. I think that in the fullness of time we will have an opportunity to tell you about it. These are the main things that I can report to you.

Now the leaders of Georgia and Russia are heading for the airport. They are expected to take part in the Istanbul conference on economic affairs of Black Sea countries and to sign appropriate economic agreements.

Yeltsin Resumes Gas Shipments

OW2506102992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia and Russia recognize each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of frontiers and have no territorial claims to each other. This was stated in a political communique signed in Dagomys on Wednesday [24 June] by the leaders of the two countries Eduard Shevardnadze and Boris Yeltsin.

Russia and Georgia pledged to settle all disputes only by peaceful means through political talks without resorting to the use of force or the threat of force.

To demonstrate his good will President Yeltsin decided to resume gas shipments to Georgia. The pipeline carrying gas to Georgia was blocked a month ago in North Ossetia following the decision of the local parliament to impose an economic blockade on Georgia. The sanctions followed the shooting by Georgians at a bus with Ossetian refugees in South Ossetia in which many people died.

Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze agreed to hold summit meetings regularly and to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level as of July 1.

According to the communique, Russia welcomes the determination of Georgia to become a UN member and will support it in every way.

In another document signed by the two leaders—the agreement on the principles the Georgian-Ossetian settlement—says that the fire in South Ossetia must be stopped by June 28 .

The two sides decided to set up joint patrol groups and a dividing belt between South Ossetia and Georgia proper.

In Istanbul airport President Yeltsin told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent that the work on the Russian-Georgian documents signed in Dagomys was not free from problems. Still he felt that they are the first good and important step toward settlement in South Ossetia. He said that a full-scale political treaty between Russia and Georgia should be drafted.

Georgian Deputy Prime-Minister Aleksandr Kavsadze who attended the Dagomys meeting told IF that the treaty is to be drafted within a month.

Shevardnadze on Talks

LD2406231192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2220 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova, ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Sochi, 25 June—I am very pleased with the meeting and conversation with Boris Yeltsin. It was a very necessary meeting, Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze told journalists at Sochi Airport on the evening of 24 June just before flying to Istanbul.

He said that during the Sochi meeting with the Russian president and the leaders of North and South Ossetia, an agreement was concluded on the principles for settling the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and on Russia's concrete participation in the settlement process. We agreed on a cease-fire, on setting up a monitoring mechanism, on forming a corridor for demarcation purposes, and on other important matters, Shevardnadze emphasized.

The position of the Russian side was constructive and reasonable, he declared, answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent. We decided to establish diplomatic relations with Russia before the end of the month. Boris Yeltsin, according to Shevardnadze, made a statement saying that Russia would support Georgia's entry into the United Nations. An understanding was reached on the development of economic cooperation and on the lifting of all kinds of blockades and restrictions in the economic sphere.

In Georgia, Shevardnadze continued, everything has now stabilized, but it was a sortie by the darkest forces. "Thank God, it was possible to localize everything in a very short time and to remove a serious threat. Regrettably, there are casualties," he said. In Shevardnadze's view, a worse tragedy might have happened, but the people actively supported him.

Officials on Agreement

LD2406181292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Video report by correspondent A. Gerasimov from Sochi including recorded remarks by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy; introductory paragraph read by announcer—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Events in Tbilisi have delayed the talks between the leaders of Russia, Georgia, and North and South Ossetia in Dagomys. Nevertheless the talks were held. The events in Georgia have provided Eduard Shevardnadze with additional arguments.

[Gerasimov] The leaders of Russia, North and South Ossetia were waiting for the arrival of Eduard Shevardnadze for more than six hours. Here they believe that the seizure of the Tbilisi television center was arranged by Gamsakhurdia's supporters in order to disrupt the quadripartite meeting on the settlement of the Ossetian conflict. Nevertheless, Shevardnadze has arrived.

The leaders of Georgia and Russia had a tete-a-tete conversation lasting around 40 minutes. Neither side wants the bloodshed to continue, and it looks like they have succeeded in finding a way to settle the conflict, despite Russia taking a rather hard position on this question.

[Rutskoy] It was worth handling this issue with sufficient firmness. It is time to put an end to all this. No more talks and negotiations—we should be taking specific measures by now because these talks could go on forever.

[Gerasimov] The effectiveness of the measures taken by the sides will be clear only when an actual cease-fire is achieved in Ossetia. At the moment the agreement on the principles of settling the Georgian-Ossetian conflict signed by Yeltsin and Shevardnadze is coming into force.

[Yeltsin] One cannot say that the document we already have here is all-embracing. However, we have agreed, in principle, within a month to prepare a draft comprehensive political treaty between Georgia and Russia. A special control commission is being set up. The troops for separating the fighting sides along the South Ossetian border are being set up. In short, this is a document which aims at stopping the conflict and bloodshed. This is the most important thing.

[Gerasimov] We have just learned that after the leaders of Georgia and Russia have departed, Rutskoy has asked both Ossetian delegations to remain in the conference hall.

Yeltsin on Monitoring Group

LD2406185792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Sochi June 24 TASS—Russian and Georgian presidents on Wednesday [24 June] signed an agreement on principles of the settlement of the conflict between Georgia and Ossetia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin told journalists "a special monitoring committee is being created, troops to divide hostile parties along South Ossetian border are being organized." Describing the document, Yeltsin said measures to stop the conflict are being adopted. "And that is most important", he added.

Right after the signing of the document, Yeltsin left for Istanbul. Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and the leaders of South and North Ossetia kept working on a communique.

Moscow 'Actively Supports' Georgia's UN Plans

OW2406132992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia actively supports Georgia's plans to join the UN on Britain's recommendation, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told IF [INTERFAX] on Tuesday [23 June].

With reference to the Russian foreign minister, he said that it is only a matter of time.

He also said that the UN is likely to consider Georgia's application on June 25.

Yeltsin To Meet Moldovan President in Istanbul

OW2306162292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin told DP's correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov in Dagomys that on June 25, in Istanbul, he will meet with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

Boris Yeltsin stressed that this is going to be a quadripartite meeting involving himself, Kravchuk, Snegur and Iliescu.

The subject of the talks is the situation in the Dniester region. Bloodshed in this region must be stopped, Boris Yeltsin stated.

Kozyrev Previews Black Sea Countries Meeting

LD2306225792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] An agreement on economic, ecological, and other forms of cooperation is to be signed in the course of a meeting between the heads of state of the Black Sea basin countries in Istanbul on 25 June, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev reported in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Russian President Boris Yeltsin will take part in the Istanbul meeting. Russia's participation in this meeting at the top level, the minister said, stresses once again that we desire openings for cooperation not just with America but in other directions as well.

It is not being envisaged that Russia will be surrounded or leave the warm seas, he noted. On the contrary, further openings for trade routes are being envisaged. The new Russia is taking care of the southern direction in its foreign policy, including the Black Sea.

Support Voiced for Black Sea Cooperation Zone

LD2206184292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—Russia actively supports the idea of creating an economic cooperation zone in the Black Sea region and is interested in developing bilateral and diverse cooperation there. This was stated by a high-ranking Russian diplomat in an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

In Istanbul (Turkey) on 25 June there will be a meeting between the presidents and heads of states of the states of the Black Sea basin. The tasks of the meeting include the signing of a declaration on economic ooperation in the Black Sea region, which was initialled by the foreign ministers of the member states in February 1992, and discussion of a broad range of regional and international problems, he continued. Those expected to take part in the work of the forum are Azerbiajan, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey. Greece and Albania have also been invited. The participation of Albania and Yugoslavia will be considered in the near future.

Speaking about the reasons why the Russian Federation is interested in taking part in that meeting, the Russian diplomat noted that Russia is politically interested in ensuring security and peace on its southern borders. And from an economic point of view, it wants to use the potential of Russia's southern regions to broaden trade and economic links and to strengthen its relations of trust and good-neighborliness not only with Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania but also with the CIS member states. Such cooperation, he noted in conclusion, will meet Russia's interests in preserving and consolidating its links with Transcaucasian states, in particular with Azerbiajan, Armenia, and Georgia.

Defense Ministry Says Army Neutral in Dniester

LD2306153892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—The 14th Russian Army deployed in the Dniester region of Moldova was and remains neutral even in these tragic days, according to a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry.

Nikolay Medvedev told TASS on Tuesday [23 June] the Moldovan leadership continues to instigate tensions around the Army. The statements of the Moldovan president, Mircea Snegur, and the parliamentary speaker, Aleksandru Moshanu, made in the republican parliament today and accusing the Army of aggression against Moldova are groundless, he added.

Neither of the statements cites any facts of direct participation of the Army units in the Dniester conflict, Medvedev stressed. However, he admitted several officers from the Army joined the Dniester guardsmen to protect the city of Bendery during Moldovan armed assault. "But the officers acted on their own, without any orders from the command", Medvedev said.

There were no reports on involvement in combat activities of an engineering batallion deployed near the settlement of Parkany which had been transferred under jurisdiction of the Dniester region.

The command of the Army has several times asked the conflicting sides to refrain from involving the military into the conflict, Medvedev said. The personnel opens fire only in cases of direct attacks on the military units of the Army aimed at seizing weapons, and when military townships are shelled and the lives of the personnel and their families are in danger, he added.

Dniester Leader Arrives in Moscow for Talks

LD2306211792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, arrived in Moscow today. He plans to meet the Russian leadership to discuss the conflict situation in the region and Moldova's aggression against the Dniester region residents.

At today's news conference Marakutsa stated that the leadership of the Republic of Moldova is carrying out aggression against its own people, as almost 60 percent of the 500 people who were killed in fighting are Moldovans. It is mainly civilians from Bendery and nearby villages who are being killed. The military make up only 15 percent of those wounded and killed. The Moldovan troops even fired on graduates who were holding their farewell balls.

The head of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester region reported that the building of the city soviet in Bendery, the communications center, the Moldovkabel factory, (?the GSM base), and other enterprises have been destroyed. Marakutsa also reported that attempts have been made to dismantle factories' equipment and take it to Chisinau or other places in Moldova.

With the purpose of exacerbating the situation, all prisoners were released from prison in Bendery and given arms. Marakutsa quoted information which shows that the participation of the Romanian side in this conflict is expanding. Combat equipment and arms are coming from Romania. Romanian instructors are taking part in the fighting. The body of a dead Romanian officer was found in Bendery. There is information that a concentration of Moldovan troops is taking place in the rayons densely populated by the Gagauz. Referring to these facts, Marakutsa stated that talks with Moldova are not possible.

[Begin Marakutsa recording] We have chosen the course and announced the formation of an independent state. We officially appeal for help from other states of the world, to the United Nations, and to other states—in particular to the Russian Federation and Ukraine—for both economic help to restore what we have and what has been destroyed, and for military help. We hope they will discuss the situation and make a decision to repel the aggression of Moldova against the Dniester Republic. [end recording]

Answering a question on how military aid to the Dniester region can be expressed specifically, Marakutsa said:

[Begin Marakutsa recording] I am convinced that the military aid should be as follows: Despite Moldova's wishes, it is high time time that the Russian troops stood in the middle as peacekeeping forces and did not allow the conflict here to grow from either of the sides. [end recording]

Further on Remarks

LD2306130492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] I have come to appeal to the Russian leadership to provide assistance and I am hoping for a meeting at the highest level, it was stated at a news conference in Moscow by Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Dniester Republic Supreme Soviet. He told about events in Bendery, calling them a civil war. In the course of this war more than 500 people of the Dniester region have already died, over 3,500 have been wounded, and moreover 85 percent are civilians. Marakutsa said that a raid by Moldovan MiG's was carried out on the town last night. After massive bombardment about half of Bendery's buildings have already been destroyed. The town is currently in the hands of Moldovan armed units. Marakutsa stressed that there was irrefutable proof of Romania's involvement in the conflict, which is assisting Moldova with tanks, munitions, and artillery. There are many Romanian volunteers, including officer instructors, among those fighting on the side of Moldova. Factories are now being dismantled in Bendery and equipment is being shipped out. Only occupiers behave in this way, Marakutsa noted.

[Begin Marakutsa recording] It was possible to preserve the territorial integrity of the state of Moldova in the form of a federation until such a large scale action act of genocide occurred against its own people—that is what they think if Moldova is a single state—against its own people. [end recording]

Journalists tried to find out who precisely in the Russian leadership Grigoriy Marakutsa is going to talk to about assistance in the fight against the Moldovan Government. Judging by his evasive replies, Marakutsa still does not know who will receive him, but of the top leaders only Vice President Rutskoy remains in Moscow today.

Delegation Returns From Moldovan Visit, Comments

LD2306140292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—A Russian delegation headed by Deputy Vladimir Podoprigora, which just returned from Chisinau, Tiraspol and Bendery, reported "a crime against people is being committed" in the republic.

The delegation visited the conflict-torn area to "collect objective information" and "establish a dialogue" with the sides involved in the conflict, Russian Minister of Transportation Vitaliy Yefimov, one of the members of the delegation, said at a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday [23 June].

Yefimov believes Moldovan units are trying to "intimidate the population and cause panic." The Moldovan side rejected proposals of a temporary ceasefire to evacuate the civil population. People are accusing Russia, Ukraine and the command of the 14th Russian Army stationed in Tiraspol of inaction, he said.

Podoprigora said that during the visit, the delegation came under unprovoked attacks but did not find strong reasons to "begin a war with the civil population of the city." Anatoliy Kleimenov, another member of the delegation, said "the whole action in Bendery was planned in advance by Moldova."

Vitaliy Churkin, deputy Russian foreign minister, believes the 14th Army is not the root cause of the conflict. The Russian side "does not consider itself involved in the conflict," Churkin said, adding that "Russia has no intentions to infringe upon Moldova's independence."

However, Kleimenov, who is also deputy chief of the Russian General Staff, warned the 14th Army has been instructed to take "adequate measures" if attacks against its personnel continue.

"Our trip to Bendery was accompanied by continuous bomb explosions and bullet whines. Residents are burying the dead next to their homes since they cannot take them out of the city. There is an endless flow of refugees to Tiraspol," Vitaliy Yefimov said.

"We did not find evidence of the 14th Army's participation in the conflict as the Moldovan side claims. But the patience of the army personnel is not endless. Civilians are being killed before their eyes. Officers in Bendery do not know anything about their families. Our proposal to suspend fighting for several hours to evacuate the wounded and dead and officers' families was rejected by the Moldovan side," Kleymenov said.

Vladimir Podoprigora said Moldovan sappers mined a chemical plant in Bendery, which has 150 tonnes of chlorine in its reservoirs.

"The Moldovan side said our trip posed a threat to its integrity and independence and tried to foil it. We have no claims on Moldova and call for the continuation of dialogue and an end to the bloodshed. The conflict in Bendery is in the focus of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's attention, who spoke via telephone with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur." This inspires hope that the fratricidal massacre in the Dniester Republic will be stopped," Vitaliy Churkin said.

Operational Group Takes Emergency Aid to Dniester

LD2406162592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] On the instructions of the Russian Government, an operational group from the State Committee for Emergency Situations has flown to the Dniester Republic with a field hospital to help the wounded. The main task of the humanitarian mission is to provide emergency aid to the casualties in Bendery and other populated points.

According to the latest figures, there are more than 2,000 dead and wounded. There is an urgent need for medical workers, medicines, bandages, and dressings and blood substitutes.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives News Briefing

Remarks on Yeltsin's Visit

LD2306155992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's state visit to the United States, his talks and meetings with the U.S. leadership have become an event of overriding importance in Russia's relations with the outside world since it assumed the rights and obligations of the former Soviet Union, a senior Russian spokesman said evaluating the Russian leader's visit overseas at a press conference here today.

Speaking about the results of the visit, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, noted that the accords reached can push forward significantly reforms in Russia. According to Yastrzhembskiy, the results of the visit surpass preliminary forecasts and expectations. By way of an example, he cited several bilateral documents concerning the most diverse areas of interaction—politics, the economy, commerce and investments, which were signed in Washington.

Yastrzhembskiy drew attention to the accord to lift all quotas and restrictions on the personnel of the two countries' official missions, which was reached by the sides.

Criticizes Yugoslav Pact

LD2306232692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 23 Jun—[Passage omitted] Replying to a question on Russia's appraisal of the military pact concluded between Zagreb and Sarajevo, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said that the Russian side proceeds from the fact that "any accords formulated in the manner of pacts or in any other way which adds to the tension on the territory of Bosnia- Hercegovina cannot be considered a positive step aimed at meeting the requirements of the UN Security Council." Such accords, which consolidate the presence of armed formations of third states on the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina, can only serve as an additional element for deepening the crisis, the diplomat stressed. [passage omitted]

The diplomat also briefed journalists about the signing by the heads of state of the Black Sea region of a declaration on Black Sea economic cooperation, which is to take place on 25 June in Istanbul.

Comments on Weapons to Taiwan

LD2306155392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry denied rumours that two retired admirals, attending an international "round table" discussions in Taipei, are authorised to negotiate Russian arms sales to Taiwan. The reports are "speculative and not corresponding to reality", Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said at a briefing on Tuesday [23 June].

"Russia considers Taiwan to be an integral part of China and the Chinese Government as the only legal Government of China", he said, adding "we refrain from any official relations with Taiwan".

Speaking on the military pact concluded between Zagreb and Sarajevo, the spokesman said that "any agreements, signed in the form of pacts or in any other form, which trigger additional tension on the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina cannot be viewed as a positive step aimed at meeting the demands of the U.N. Security Council". Such agreements which ensure the stay of armed units of third countries on the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina can act only as an additional element of deepening the crisis, he added.

Views UN Report

LD2406191392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2138 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow 23 Jun—Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, has described the report by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali entitled "Agenda for Peace—Preventive Diplomacy and Maintaining Peace" as a serious attempt collectively to find proper reponses to today's challenges in international security. The report was circulated at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry noted at a briefing held today that the report "represents a comprehensive outline for expanding UN peacemaking." The document notes the need to develop or revive the existing system of peacemaking measures and to examine the possiblity of creating new ones. It is envisaged that the matter of setting up permanent UN armed forces equipped with heavier weaponry than the peacekeeping forces is to be examined. Much importance is given in the report to enhancing the role of the International Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The UN secretary general's proposals are mainly in keeping with the ideas that Russia has expressed with regard to the role of the United Nations in the changing world and require serious study and discussion, stressed Sergey Yastrzhembskiy.

Comments on Black Sea Meeting

LD2306153792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy announced on Tuesday [23 June] the countries of the Black Sea region are near concluding an agreement on economic cooperation.

Yastrzhembskiy announced that the agreement, which is to be signed in Istanbul on June 25, seeks to improve business conditions and encourage new enterprises in the region. It also calls for annual meetings of the foreign ministers of participating countries.

Lithuania Warned Against Attacks on Military

OW2506131092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0635 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In response to attacks on Russian military servicemen and members of their families on the territory of the former Soviet Union adequate measures should be taken, and even firearms can be used, said a ciphered telegram signed by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to the command of the 7th Airborne Division stationed in Kaunas. This document was also presented a few days ago to the Kaunas regional commandant's office of the Lithuanian Home Defense Department.

Head of the Department's Unified Headquarters Vladas Tutkus told BF [BALTFAX] that he doubted this order would be implemented in Lithuania. In his words, so far there have been no provocations or attacks on the Russian military.

Tutkus does not consider the document poses an open threat. "This is rather a warning addressed to the Lithuanian authorities"....

Japanese Foreign Minister To Visit 'Soon'

OW2406132492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite serious surgery undergone recently, Japanese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is planning to visit Moscow soon, the Russian Foreign Ministry informed DP [Diplomatic Panorama].

A diplomat specializing in relations with Japan said that the date of the visit has not been fixed yet. "Watanabe is likely to arrive in Moscow at the end of July or at the beginning of August following the elections to one of the chambers of the Japanese parliament.

The Russian diplomat said that prior to Yeltsin's official visit to Japan, scheduled for September, Tokyo will be visited by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. "The talks between the ministers in Moscow and Tokyo are expected to ensure that Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan be as fruitful as possible," he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Lavrov Visits Japan

LD2406160692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo June 24 TASS—Russia is prepared to take part in the Asian and Pacific security system using the positive experience which was accumulated in Europe, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told TASS.

According to the diplomat, there is "nothing frightening" that Russia will reduce its presence in the region. The process reflects the objective tendencies towards political multilateral discussions, Lavrov said.

Lavrov also said contacts with ASEAN countries should be broadened in order to achieve stability and peace in the Asian Pacific region.

Suggests Regional Forces

LD2406164692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo June 24 TASS—Collective peace-making forces could be used to settle armed conflicts in the territory of the former USSR, which deteriorated over the past few weeks, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, now in Tokyo, said in an interview with the ITAR-TASS news agency on Wednesday [24 June].

Without dismissing a chance of dispatching U.N. forces to the Dniester region and Nagorno-Karabakh, Lavrov noted that initially European forces, including peacekeeping collective forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, can be used to settle the conflicts.

In the deputy minister's opinion, the United Nations should rely on efforts by regional organisations in settling regional conflicts where there are these forces and where they are capable of doing this mission.

When the efforts of these organisations fail, the U.N. can use its prestige.

Lavrov noted that Europe is interested in the former Soviet republics settling their conflicts on their own. He pointed to a world-wide positive response to the understandings achieved by the CIS countries on establishing collective forces and observer groups to maintain peace in the Commonwealth.

"In theory," the deputy minister continued, "I foresee versions when such forces are formed not only from the CIS countries to raise the level of their acceptability to others: They may include observers from neutral European states."

Pointing to a chance to use structures under the "umbrella" of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to end conflicts in the Commonwealth, Lavrov did not preclude a chance that the United Nations "can interfere at any time if its prestige is needed to support some situation or other".

He added that the U.N. will need to make examination and technical assistance, including the sharing of experience in practical organisation of peace-keeping operations.

Meeting on Japanese Peace Treaty Postponed

LD2406192492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1958 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Oleg Polovka]

[Text] Moscow 24 June—Japan, in principle, was beforehand aware of the fact that the Russo-Japanese working group session for preparation of the peace treaty will not be held today. The ITAR- TASS correspondent received this clarification in the Russian Foreign Ministry in response to a request to reports regarding the postponement of the working group session that appeared today in the Japanese press.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry representative, both sides, in fact, had discussed the possibility of holding the session on June 24-25 in the Japanese capital. However, owing to a lately heavy work load of the Russian foreign department the indicated date was not finally agreed to at all, but was decided as a concrete date for holding the session. The work on a mutually acceptable date is in progress, the Foreign Ministry official informed.

U.S. 'Pressure' Applied to Rocket Sale to India

LD1606101492

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1315 GMT on 14 June as part of the "International Panorama" program carries a four-minute feature on Russian-Indian space cooperation.

Presenter Aleksandr Vasilyev begins by speaking of Western credits to Russia, citing the fears that these sums "could be turned into a means of exerting pressure on the Russian leadership. For example, our democratic press even raised doubts about the question of the new government appointments: what will the Americans think of them, the press asked, and will they want to give us the credits now?" He continues: "But I reckon the most flagrant example of hysteria over U.S. pressure in Russia is the matter of the Russian-Indian space project."

Next, correspondent Taras Kashinskiy speaks on the background to the signing of the Glavkosmos-Indian Space Research organization agreement. Kashinskiy says that India obtained cryogenic liquid hydrogen engines in line with a Glavkosmos bid which was accepted in preference to bids from the United States and the French space agency.

Kashinskiy then interviews Glavkosmos chairman Aleksandr Dunayev, who says that the contract sparked off "a real trade war". Kashinskiy asks "so can the Americans be said to be trying to force Russia out of the world market as a competitive rival?" Dunayev agrees: "Our position is that it is absolutely the case. The Americans are doing this under a more noble pretext: they say we are breaching the principles of rocket technology proliferation. There have never been any technical meetings: only meetings between diplomats. However, juridically speaking, it can always be said that a principle is being breached. Looked at from the technical point of view, there are no guarantees that we are breaching anything anywhere. Here, it seems to me, there is just the fear that technical experts will say there are no violations, and this thing cannot be used in a rocket."

During their meeting in Brussels on 6 March 1992, Kashinskiy says that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev that the Glavkosmos-India agreement could hinder U.S.-Russian space cooperation. He continues: "It is quite evident that Washington is trying to stop us earning money even in the sphere where we can earn a big profit. The losses would be huge if the contract were broken. Russia's prestige as a reliable partner in the space sphere would be undermined. Experts estimate the total financial losses at four billion Indian rupees and tens of millions of dollars. About 65,000 workers in the Russian space industry will be out of a job."

"Our country's reaction to the attempts to hinder the contract being implemented will make it clear what our foreign policy is really like," Kashinskiy concludes.

Rocket Specialists Arrive in India

LD2206184192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0520 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] New Delhi, 22 Jun—A group of Russian scientists and specialists has arrived in the southern Indian town of Trivandrum to discuss cooperation with colleagues from the Vikram Sarabhai national space center in the production in India of cryogenic rocket motors.

Reporting on this today, THE HINDU newspaper notes that the visit is of particular significance in connection with the persistant attempts by the U.S. Administration to block the implementation of a bilateral contract which provides for Russia's supplying India on a commercial basis with the technology required to implement its space program. It is expected that on 22 June, talks will begin, in the course of which a specific technological and production schedule and patent questions concerned with this will be reviewed.

All Contracts To Be 'Fulfilled'

LD2506102192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 25 Jun 92

[BY ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Cherepakhin]

[Text] New Delhi June 25 TASS—All contracts between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Russian Glavkosmos space agency will be fulfilled in time and the first rocket with a Russian-made cryogenic engine will be launched in 1995 as scheduled, the UNI news agency reported on Thursday [25 June] quoting U. R. Rao, the ISRO chairman.

The United States introduced sanctions against the ISRO and Glavkosmos demanding to cancel the deal envisaging Russian rocket technology supplies to India, which it fears might be used for military purposes. India and Russia have several times denied the allegations.

The first two cryogenic engines will be assembled in Russia, according to the contract. In future the engines will be jointly produced, Rao was quoted as saying.

Yeltsin Said To Concede More Than Gorbachev

PM2406121592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jun 92 p 4

[Commentary by Viktor Linnik [V.L.] under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "We Do Not Count the Cost—The Russian President Stretches Out a Hand to America To Keep His Government From Turning Up Its Toes"]

[Text] And so, the Russian president's "truly historic"—as some papers in a loyal passion rushed to subscribe it—visit to the United States has ended. Things really are pretty bad with the creative imagination of the mass media which serve the present authorities if all they managed to come up with was to repeat the epithet "historic," which has bored us all to tears over the last 20 years, affixed to every high-level Soviet-U.S. contact. The only novelty that we can see lies in the fact that the current visit really is historic, unlike all the previous ones which, when put to the test, turned out to be nothing of the sort. In short, it is just as in Gogol's comedy: a second "Yuriy Miloslavskiy," exactly like the first...

However, in one sense it is possible to agree with this assessment. The visit is truly historic because it drew a line under the era of nuclear missile parity between the USSR and the United States, which had lasted just under a quarter of a century. The same parity which, if the words uttered by B. Yeltsin in Washington are to be believed, doomed half the Russian people to deprivation and oppression. (As if the six-month tornado of Gaydar's reforms was no more than the malicious invention of the "reds and browns"—V.L.) But strictly speaking, what else can be expected from the authorities which number in the ranks of their warmest supporters people for whom the victory over Germany in the Patriotic War was the greatest of evils?

You would not envy Yeltsin's U.S mission. If you peel off the shell of turgid rhetoric about the new era of partnership and common ideals of freedom and democracy which gushed forth in a mighty torrent during these days from the two presidents' lips, then he went to the United States essentially with one purpose: to beg for U.S. help to save his government, which is desperately losing popularity. The whole strategy and tactics of the visit were tailored in order to obtain $24 billion in the form of credits, investments, and deferred loans.

Almost everything was done for the sake of this: Yeltsin gave up the "pearl" in the USSR's strategic arsenal—the SS-18 heavy missiles which, as the saying goes, was a thorn in the Americans' flesh. For the sake of this the ABM Treaty, which has been one of the mainstays of security over the last 20 years, was in effect renounced. The alternative proposed—participation in a global defense system—is still entirely shrouded in mist. It is unclear, a high-ranking representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs remarked to me in conversation, what role will be assigned to Russia in this system—maybe a little bigger, or maybe a little smaller, than Israel's. Finally, for the sake of this, a public striptease was performed on the eve of the visit over the fate of U.S. pilots lost in the skies over the USSR in the last 35 years. Now there is the clearest example of zeal outrunning intelligence! This move, which, according to its devisers' plan, was supposed to display a picture of our complete openness to the Americans, had a completely unexpected impact. It virtually overshadowed the entire visit, because the Americans talked far more about this than all the other "breakthroughs" during the "historic" visit. It reached the point where, in the heat of the moment, many legislators actually began spouting total absurdities: No aid to Russia until it returns the prisoners to their homeland. In short, in a fit of masochism they hung up "communism's dirty linen" in broad daylight and the Russian president, apart from everything else, had to wash himself. Clearly Yeltsin was aiming at Gorbachev, who answered similar questions from the Americans about the prisoners with Gromyko's "nyet," but he hit...Bush, who has several times been reproached by presidential candidate R. Perot with lacking insistence over the search for American MIA's.

Considering how Bush is losing to Perot in all voter opinion polls, it is obvious how much Yeltsin's frankness "helped" Bush...

Finally, for the sake of obtaining the $24 billion, Yeltsin hurled curses at the "communist idol." How convincing these polemics sounded from the lips of a man who until quite recently was one of the high priests of that idol is another question....

Let us say at once that for us the question is not: to disarm or not to disarm? The answer is yes, undoubtedly. But not at any price! And this price turns out to be manifestly disproportionate to the dividends which we have obtained from it. The "Freedom Support" bill, which contains part of the $24 billion which the Russian Government has dinned into the ears of all true Russians, still remains in the U.S. Congress. PRAVDA as far back as January wrote that we should not expect to obtain big money in a U.S. election year, since no U.S. president could allow himself to throw U.S. taxpayers' money around. Since then the infamous events in Los Angeles have occurred, which—believe it—have put a stop this year to any money injections of any substance into the Yeltsin government.

The U.S. President promised the Russian president to grant Russia most-favored trading status. An impressive result of the last seven years of our foreign policy, it cannot be denied. Let us just note that China has had this status for several years already (with a minor interruption) without changing, as we know, anything in its foreign policy or its system.

Yeltsin hinted to U.S. businessmen that, if they do not invest money now, the Russian market will be full within a year. That is just whistling in the dark! Western investments are today pouring into China, not Russia. Why? Because there is a stable system there, and therefore businessmen can bring back their money. But Yeltsin, it follows from Western commentaries, said nothing about what is most important to businessmen—guarantees for their capital investments.

After the country's shield—the air defense system—was essentially punched full of holes by the USSR's collapse, its sword too—the most valuable part of the Soviet nuclear potential—is now being emasculated. No wonder that B. Yeltsin was granted thunderous ovations in the U.S. Congress. I should think so! There is no mention of this kind of disarmament striptease on the Potomac. Even the phenomenal concessions of Gorbachev's foreign policy pale into insignificance before it!

"Ah!" the government's adorers exclaimed in one voice. "A wonderful breakthrough in nuclear arms reductions has been achieved in only five months! And the previous phase of reductions took nine long years." It would be in keeping with the same logic to conclude that the current constellation of Russian diplomats are ten times cleverer and more efficient than the previous ones! Indeed, it is only too clear that with the current approaches matters can be arranged much faster. After all, a minute is all it takes to throw your cards on the table. Today the most important thing in diplomacy has been forgotten—that it is a long, painful process of exchanging compromise for compromise. And all in the name of defending our own national interests! But these interests are not seen today from the windows of Smolensk Square or Staraya Ploshchad, or from behind the crenulated Kremlin walls. It is to be hoped that the Russian parliament, which is due to ratify the agreement signed, will look at it without the enthusiasm that has been de rigeur in recent years.

Impact of Yeltsin's U.S. Visit Analyzed

924C1737A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 22-23, Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed report under the heading "Behind the Facade of Social Visits": "Yeltsin in America and at Home"]

[Text] **As formerly, the Washington meeting of the leaders of the two biggest powers attracted the great attention of journalists of the whole world. As is clear from a whole number of reports of foreign correspondents, there is unabating interest not only in the underlying political and economic motives of B. Yeltsin's visit to the United States but also in the actual personality of the Russian president and his views, predilections, hobbies, and family life.**

In the opinion of a number of experts, whereas in "cold war" times the shadow of the "war or peace" dilemma hovered over Soviet-American summits, political confrontation, in which both presidents are involved at home, hovers over the meeting of George Bush and Boris Yeltsin.

For Yeltsin the state visit to Washington is one further round in his struggle aimed at removing from the international arena his predecessor Mikhail Gorbachev, whose popularity overseas is tremendous.

As far, however, as Bush is concerned, the present summit affords him a favorable opportunity to act presidentially and demonstrate his experience in international affairs, which both Bill Clinton and Ross Perot lack.

It is no secret in Moscow that Bush angered Yeltsin by inviting Gorbachev to dinner at the White House a month ago. The White House also ignored the advice of Ambassador Robert Strauss, who had recommended that "less be done for Gorbachev and more, thereby, for Yeltsin."

Unfortunately, the warm reception which was accorded Gorbachev by Bush, the U.S. Congress, and representatives of America's business circles encouraged the former Soviet leader to stoke the fire of criticism aimed against Yeltsin. Gorbachev, who is manifestly unpopular at home, is with satisfaction playing the America card against Yeltsin.

In the light of such events George Bush's task, in the opinion of experts, is to make the present summit special for Boris Yeltsin. He needs to find the necessary symbols and take steps and, possibly, find the resources to show that there are goals which a democratically elected president of Russia can achieve in partnership with America and which the former general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party could not achieve.

An interview on the eve of the visit ended with an explosion of anger on the part of the Russian president. An American journalist told Yeltsin that in St. Petersburg she had seen how two infants had died in a hospital on account of a shortage of antibiotics. "Then why do you not give us antibiotics? You are a rich a country, after all!" Boris Yeltsin erupted. He added that his own mother was in hospital with heart disease in a ward with 10 other patients and that there were no drugs to treat her.

Three days prior to the visit the first popularly elected president of Russia won a game of tennis. As the correspondents present here testified, "when you see to what a point of exhaustion he drives himself in the game, you start to wonder where the stories to the effect that he is not in the best of health come from." When the Russian president goes to play tennis on Saturdays, he assemblies his whole family: his wife Naina and his two daughters—Lena and Tanya—and also his three grandchildren. He plays at his official dacha outside of Moscow.

It is known that George Bush on his days off plays six different games. As journalists have decided, "he will find much in common with this man, who played three different games in 45 minutes, and all on the same court—tennis, football, and volleyball."

Naina Yeltsin, in the impression of Americans, is not even remotely similar to the public figure that Raisa Gorbachev was. This "first lady" is so much of the time in the background that the majority of people would not even recognize her on the street. And she has yet to grant anyone a television interview. But she is not shy and can speak very heatedly when it is a question of the criticism to which her husband is being subjected at this time for his economic reforms.

"No one has a good word to say," N. Yeltsin told correspondents, "and this despite the fact that people know nothing about what the result will be. Yet there are no results as yet. Everything is bad, bad. But no one knows what has to be done. We see the opposition, which is looking for bad things in order to take advantage of them."

To a question as to how she met B. Yeltsin, N. Yeltsin replied: "We were students together at the institute, became good friends and fell in love. That was a long time ago."

"When we graduated from the institute and married," B. Yeltsin observed, "my wife and I had just two chairs. We did not even have a table."

"The reform will move forward, however difficult things are. Only forward," B. Yeltsin said. "The reforms are working. I have announced that I will not seek reelection in 1996. This will give me a chance to move far more quickly, without worrying about whether my popularity is up or down by two percent. By 1996 the reforms will be absolutely irreversible."

"If the public wants you to run again, might it persuade you to do so?" a CBS correspondent asked. "Too much water has to flow until then," B. Yeltsin replied.

Yeltsin's Canadian Visit, Talks Viewed

PM2506103792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "From Canada Yeltsin Brought Sympathy, Hope, but Not Money for Reforms"]

[Text] Ottawa-Montreal-Moscow—The flight by the president's "Rossiya" aircraft from the hot American town of Wichita to cool Ottawa took only slightly over two hours. During this time the lively, sociable Yeltsin whom Americans in Washington and Kansas welcomed with ovations was replaced by a Yeltsin "in protocol uniform." In the enormous airfield hangar where Canadian Prime Minister B. Mulroney organized the highest honors for him, he had changed yet again—he was the composed president, with a friendly smile but noticeably concerned with the business ahead. In Ottawa Yeltsin's conviction that there could be no justification for the restraint and indeed outright passiveness of some developed countries with regard to the Russian reforms had increased markedly. He spent several hours talking with B. Mulroney who, as on the last occasion, in February, voiced sympathy for B. Yeltsin, and the next day delivered a speech in the Canadian Parliament which was probably addressed not only to the parliamentarians of the land of the maple leaf.

Stressing that merchants have always gone before diplomats and that the Canadian Government is suggesting ideas and structures of cooperation which could be an example to others in the development of the unique Russian market, the president stated: "We do not forget those who have taken a certain but justified risk."

He aptly cited a statement by the Russian reformer P. Stolypin: "We do not need great upheavals, we need a great Russia" and stressed the spiritual proximity of the two peoples, winning applause. As a result in his reply speech the parliamentary speaker uttered a phrase which, it seems to me, B. Yeltsin wanted to hear more than any others: "We want to assume a sense of responsibility for the reforms in Russia," the speaker said.

And nonetheless for all the sympathy which the Russian president felt in Canada, for all the fact that a treaty on consensus and cooperation was signed (the unusual title presupposes a new philosophy for relations between the two countries) as was a package of economic agreements, there was no statement of substantial aid in Ottawa. At the joint news conference B. Mulroney told journalists that his government will earmark $200 million [Canadian dollars] for insuring investments in Russia by six Canadian companies and humanitarian aid will be continued—$5 million in the form of medical supplies with $30 million going to the program to ensure the safe operation of Russian nuclear electric power stations and a further $10 million allocated to set up grants named for B. Yeltsin so that young Russians can study Canadian experience.

Outcome of Helsinki CSCE Meeting Assessed

LD2206103992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1103 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent aleksandr Surikov]

[Excerpts] Helsinki, 19 Jun—The Helsinki CSCE meeting discussed a very broad range of issues relating to humanitarian cooperation. Twenty five proposals overall were submitted for inclusion in the text of the final document. Some of them concern developing the ideas and obligations of the CSCE in this sphere, others concern how to implement them in practice. This was stated in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Vyacheslav Bakhmin, member of the Russian delegation at the meeting and director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Department for International Humanitarian and Cultural Cooperation. [passage omitted]

It has to be recognized that the situation in Russia still looks bad regarding the implementation of commitments. It is true that we can justify ourselves by the fact that the emergence of statehood and of democratic institutions is under way in our country, and this justification is accepted. We are asking the CSCE to promote this process to the utmost. In general terms it has to be said that the question of the observance of laws has always been a third rate issue in our country. That is the kind of legal consciousness that emerged with us over the course of many decades, if not centuries. On the one hand, there existed the law, and on the other, actual practice. That is the way things used to be before the revolution, too. There was a reason that the formula came about on judgment by choice—by law or by conscience.

During the discussion, the Russian representative went on, we could see how seriously western countries view any, even it would appear, the most trivial obligations, the adoption of which entails a change to their internal legislation. For them this is a very important argument: it is unacceptable because it is at variance with legislation. As far as we are concerned, we are now ready to take on any obligations which we consider reasonable. In this sense we have an advantage. However, the question of implementing what has already been adopted is very acute.

We see our task in the fact that the laws being adopted should not only not run counter to Russia's international commitments; on the contrary, they should promote their implementation in full measure. It is not so easy to resolve this issue, as Supreme Soviet deputies lack this understanding. Not everyone understands that a country counting itself as part of the civilized world, having taken on certain international commitments, should observe them rigorously. However, in our country arguments to the effect that one or another provision runs counter to international law are still often not taken into account in discussing draft laws.

CSCE Delegate on Dniester, Ossetian Situation

LD2406140492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 24 Jun 82

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki June 24 TASS—Russia's delegate at the CSCE Conference in Helsinki Yevgeniy Gusarov told TASS on Wednesday [24 June] that the worsening of the Dniester crisis stemmed primarily out of Moldova's unwillingness to seek peaceful solutions to the problem. Gusarov also rejected all allegations about Russia's interference in the region. Russia stands for an immediate ceasefire and dialogue between the conflicting sides. The 14th Russian Army maintains neutrality although has to take self-defence measures, he said.

Gusarov said great hopes are being laid on the Istanbul Black Sea Summit due to begin on Thursday [25 June]. Presidents of Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Romania could reach a ceasefire accord there, he said.

Gusarov said that South Ossetian conflict was caused by actions, undertaken by Georgians to push the Ossetians off their habitat. He said that like in the Dniester region, Russian Army did not interfere there but only acted to defend itself.

Gusarov said there are no mechanisms in CSCE arsenals to influence the conflicting sides, only U.N. can do that, he said.

Federation Affairs

Government Collegium Endorses Reform Program

LD2506105792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jun (TASS)—The program for in-depth reform has been endorsed in principle at the extended session of the Russian Government collegium held today. It was chaired by Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. This is a three-year program. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the government's economic adviser, Aleksey Ulyukayev, that the aim of the program is to place the Russian economy in 1994 "on the trajectory of stable economic growth, which will ensure the population's prosperity."

The program recognizes that in 1992 there will be a fall in production and that in 1993 the fall will be more smooth. Speaking at the collegium session, Yevgeniy Yasin, head of the working group for drawing up the program, said that in 1992 the fall in production is expected to be about 15 percent of the gross national product index, in 1993 it will be 5 percent, and in 1994 it will be stabilized and then the Russian economy will begin to grow.

Reform will be deepened in six main spheres: liberalization of the economy, stabilization of the finance and monetary system, privatization and the development of entrepreneurship, structural rebuilding of the economy, creation of a competitive market, and active social policy, with a view to adapting the working age population to new conditions and with a view to protecting vulnerable groups from negative developments in transitional processes.

The Russian Government collegium adopted a decision to complete work on the program for in-depth reform, taking account of the proposals and additions made today, before it is submitted to the Supreme Soviet. The government is expected to make its final decision on the program at its regular meeting next Tuesday [30 June].

At today's meeting the collegium also heard a report by Transport Minister Vitaliy Yefimov, who is also chairman of the Russian Federation State Commission for the evaluation of the situation in the Dniester region, on the results of the commission's visit to Moldova. The members of the government also dissussed the results of the work of the Russian Federation Government commission for drawing up proposals for improving the system of state administration.

Stages of Plan Outlined

LD2406190192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jun—A program for deepening the economic reforms that are being carried out in Russia will be submitted on Thursday [25 June] for consideration during a Russian cabinet collegium meeting. This was announced in an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent by one of the authors of the document, Vladimir Mau, economic adviser to the Russian Government.

The need for a new program has arisen, according to the economist, because "the first stage of reform—the actual stabilization of the economy—is already nearing completion, and so it is necessary to identify the medium-term prospects." The second stage of the implementation of the reforms is scheduled for 1992-1995.

"The reform-deepening stage," Mau continued, "comprises six main areas. They are: liberalization of the economy, stabilization of the financial and monetary system, privatization and the development of enterprise, structural reorganization of the economy, creation of a competitive market sphere, and an active social policy aiming to adapt the work force to the new conditions and to protect the most vulnerable strata from negative effects of the transitional processes."

Particular attention will be given to problems of privatization, support for enterprise, and the formation of a social base for reforms.

Emphasis in the program is laid on implementation of the policy of financial stabilization. According to the economist, the budget deficit is to be brought to a level of 3 to 5 percent and inflation should not exceed 5 percent per month (it has recently been about 15-20 percent per month). Alleviation of the tax burden is also to be expected by 1994.

The program also envisages, Mau continued, the reorganization of state expenditure in the social sphere, "although we cannot see any possibility of reducing the share of the social sphere in the gross national product to a level below 10 or 11 percent—approximately as it was before." By the end of the second stage of the reforms, it is planned to lower defense expenditure from the current level of over 7 percent of GNP to 5.7 percent.

Shokhin Comments

LD2406171492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin thinks that the political situation in Russia is not straightforward but is not worth turning into a drama. We can emerge from it with dignity and as winners, but a clear course of reforms needs to be conducted for this. Mistakes must not be made which may become fatal. As Shokhin is the vice premier, he already knows this, but for our listeners we report that a new meeting is expected tomorrow of the Russian Government, at which the program for the second stage of reforms will be put forward. This stage is to cover 1992 to 1995. [passage omitted]

Session Discusses Convertible Promissory Notes

OW2406180392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "INTERFAX" learned from sources close to the government that in the next few days a presidential decree will be made on the introduction of a market of convertible promissory notes. The powers and functions of the participants of the market, their rights and obligations, and methods for control were discussed Wednesday [24 June] at a meeting with the acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar.

The draft of the provisions on the market was developed by specialists from Goskomimuschestov and is an important step toward the privatization of firms. The draft, which will be completed by September 1, stresses that the introduction of the market dictates the need for the settlement of debts on Russia's domestic market.

A convertible promissory note is a no-interest security confirming the absolute obligation of the debtor to pay a certain sum to the holder. The holder of the note can be a legal entity or individual. The note can be freely traded on the market and can be bought, sold, liquidated, exchanged, or transferred.

The notes in circulation are backed by the assets of the debtor firm. The government guarantees the debts of those firms not participating in privatization. In this case the promissory note can be settled by exchange for special government bonds in 1993.

Gaydar Heads Meeting

OW2506120692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0855 GMT 25 Jun 92

[From the 24 June "Presidential Bulletin" No. 101 "prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin" and "edited by Boris Grishchenko"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources close to the government told "IF" [INTERFAX] that in the near future a presidential decree on introduction of a market of Reversible Promissory Notes (RPN) on the Russian territory is to be announced. Wednesday [24 June] the powers and functions of the market's participants were discussed at a session held by the acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. The draft decree on introduction of a RPN's market was developed by the specialists from the Russian Committee on State Commodity and is an important step towards trading of enterprises. One of the specialists who was working out the draft decree told "IF" that the creation of the RPN's market is an important step towards speeding up privatization and a measure of economic stabilization of state enterprises. The draft is expected to be completed by September 1 and it stresses that the introduction of a RPN's market is caused by the need to urgently settle mutual nonpayments on the Russian internal market. A Reversible Promissory Note is a security bearing no interest testifying the obligation of a debtor to pay a definite sum of money to the RPN's holder when the announced term comes. In case of non-payment RPN is converted into other securities providing the holder with guarantee property rights. Any legal or physical person can be a holder of a RPN. A promissory note can freely circulate on the market and can be sold, bought, paid off, changed, and granted. The RPNs issued for circulation are assured by the property of the enterprise-debtor destined to privatization. The state is a guarantor of debts of enterprises to be subject to privatization. In this case the RPNs are supposed to be paid off by means of exchanging them for obligations of a special 1993 Russian loan.

City Council Memo on Ostankino Actions Issued

OW2306121592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The standing committee on law and order of the Moscow City Council has announced that according to unconfirmed reports two or three persons, including a boy of 11 or 12 and a girl of 13 to 15, died when black berets dispersed a demonstration outside Ostankino TV center on June 22. A memorandum issued on Monday [22 June] night stresses that it is still impossible to reliably confirm or deny the reports.

In this connection the Russian Interior Ministry has informed IF [INTERFAX] that no deaths were registered as a result of the actions of the black berets outside the TV center.

The city council memorandum describes the militia operation as a punitive action. It is accompanied by a list of nine names of injured during the clashes, two of them black berets.

Picket Slated for 2 Jul

MK2406115592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 92 pp 1-2

[Report by Yevgeniy Krasnikov: "Working Russia Supporters and Militia Sought Each Other All Over Moscow. 76 People Suffered. No Bodies Found"]

[Text] The events that occurred in Moscow's streets 22 June seem to have still further exacerbated relations between the opposition and the authorities and still further reduced hope that a peaceful, constitutional way out of the present political situation can be found.

The causes of the tragic events that occurred on that day are not entirely clear, because talks had finally begun just the day before between the leadership of the television and radio company and members of the opposition. But then the Moscow authorities, which hitherto had hardly attempted to intervene in the conflict over the Ostankino Television Center, decided to employ tough measures. Arkadiy Murashev, chief of the Moscow GUVD [Internal Affairs City Administration], unexpectedly left for the Philippines at his own expense, wishing to participate in a local chess tournament. Leadership of the GUVD was assumed by his deputy, Colonel Anatoliy Yegorov, who has a reputation in GUVD circles as someone totally obedient to Luzhkov, the new mayor.

The night before the rally OMON [special purpose militia detachment] members had broken up the communist picket at Ostankino. In so doing, as Vladimir Yakushev, editor of the newspaper CHTO DELAT?, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, five people subsequently disappeared: Irina Vladimirovna Danshina (62 years old), Kapitolina Vasilyevna Yepikhina (60), Valentin Yakovlevich Ryabov (of indeterminate age), a boy Sasha (13), and a girl cook from the tent city (16). Members of the communist opposition have been unable to ascertain their fate, but precisely these names featured at the rally as "innocent victims of the OMON."

In the evening, at approximately 1900, clashes occurred in Rizhskaya Ploshchad, where a crowd of demonstrators (approximately 5,000-7,000 people) attempted to break through the OMON's defensive lines and heavy trucks on Gilyarovskiy Street and Prospekt Mira.

The marchers were extremely active. Probably for the first time in Moscow it was possible to see how people in the column had prepared for clashes with the OMON by arming themselves with lumps of broken-up asphalt and empty bottles and chanting "To Arms!" After the attempt to break through the barriers failed, Working Russia leader Anpilov, obviously remembering the lessons of October 1917, urged his supporters to take the Rizhskiy Station, but there were clearly insufficient forces for that.

Instead of storming the station, there was a rally. Speaking from the roof of a trolleybus, speakers urged the people to declare a political general strike, stigmatized "Yeltsin's antipeople government," and burned a Russian flag.

In order to maintain their supporters' fighting spirit, the demonstrators' leaders decided to schedule a new rally at "Ostankino" for 2 July. Deputy Vladimir Isakov tried to contact Yuriy Luzhkov by radio telephone, promising that the demonstrators would disperse if a representative of City Hall would accept a petition with their demands, but Luzhkov refused to speak with "scoundrels" and demanded that Isakov's radio telephone be taken away. Then several Russian deputies (Isakov, Baburin, Sayenko) set out to Vice President Rutskoy and handed an application for a rally to him personally.

The new opposition rally at Ostankino could be even larger than all the preceding ones. In any case, Dmitriy Rogozin, deputy chairman of the Constitutional Democratic Party (the only opposition member to turn up 22 June for a meeting with the leadership of the "Ostankino" Television Company), has declared that the new clashes and Sunday's "Itogi" program slandering the opposition make all talks pointless and, unless apologies are made, parties of the "moderate opposition" might also participate in Ostankino pickets.

There are still no full data on the casualties of 22 June. According to information received from Moscow's Main Medical Administration, "in all, 76 people suffered in the region of Ostankino and the Rizhskiy Station and in Gilyarovskiy Street." Of these, 28 were OMON staffers. Seven people were hospitalized. According to the rally organizers' data, eight people received serious head traumas during the attempted breakthrough near the Rizhskiy Station. They include Union Deputy Vavil Nosov.

Also during the night of 22-23 June the Moscow City Soviet Commission for the Protection of Citizens' Rights disseminated a memorandum reporting that "according to unverified data, two or three people died, including a boy of 11-12 and a girl of 13-15" while OMON staffers were breaking up those involved in the pickets outside the "Ostankino" Television Center.

The official authorities, however, categorically deny the rumors of possible casualties. The GUVD has reported that in connection with the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA report entitled "Son Killed Before Mother's Eyes" (22 June), which maintains that five people died, the Moscow militia has already lodged a statement of claim against the newspaper with the Sverdlovskiy People's Court.

'Black Day,' 'Fascism' Encountered at Ostankino

PM2306112592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Jun 92 pp 1-2

[Report by I. Garifullina: "Ostankino. 22 June, 0430 Hours..."]

[Excerpts] I would like all honest people on earth to remember this black day: On 22 June 1992, at 0430 hours, exactly 51 years after fascist Germany's treacherous surprise attack on the Soviet Union, the Russian Government began a bloody war against its own people.

Blood has been spilled on the streets of Moscow. People have been killed and injured. The fascist [korichnevyy] dictatorship has discarded its mask...

Throughout the picketing of the "Ostankino" television center radio, television, and the servile press have been spreading lies and slanders about its participants. They have been saying and writing that it has been a gathering of hooligans and drunks, who were each given a bottle of vodka and are threatening public order. In fact the pickets have declared an alcohol ban and discipline has been exemplary.

But the picket was infiltrated by provocateurs, who played out well rehearsed fights specially for the television cameras. These were duly shown on television. The authorities began to escalate the violence on the basis of skillfully organized disinformation.

Despite the fact that the picket and the demonstrations were officially authorized by the authorities, during the night of 16-17 June special purpose militia detachment [OMON] troopers smashed up the tent camp. On the morning of the 18th OMON troopers pushed the pickets back from the television center to the square by the television tower. On 20 June at around four in the morning the militia again started to push the patriots back into a corner of the square. They then proclaimed this area of a few dozen square meters to be liberated territory of the USSR where the laws and Constitution of the USSR would operate.

At a news conference held in this same spot at 1230 on Saturday [20 June] Viktor Anpilov said that legal and economic tyranny is being fomented in the country and property is being taken away from the people. Mayor Yu. Luzhkov said on television that he would not shrink from even breaking up the rally. This man was appointed by President Yeltsin in violation of his own decree on the Moscow Administration, under which a resigning mayor must present a report to the Moscow City Soviet and the vice mayor must be appointed mayor by agreement with the Moscow City Soviet. None of this was done.

On the subject of the mayor's statement that he would take every step to prevent a rally on 22 June as no application had been submitted, V. Anpilov said that an application had been submitted to the Northern District Prefect's Office. Not an application but a notification, since the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet confirmed that such applications are notificatory in nature.

"To date we, the rally organizers, have not committed provocations, or attacks, or theft with respect to state property, or abuse of human dignity," he noted. "Let us think back to all our rallies. Has anything like that happened? Was it necessary to bring in so many militia to cope with people marching beneath red banners? I think not! But we did inform them. We have a certificate that the notification was accepted bearing the seal of the Northern District Prefect's Office."

Nevertheless the illegality continued to be cranked up. Passions mounted.

In the afternoon of 21 June a collective lunch was organized in the corner of the square in sad commemoration of the beginning of the war and those who died in the struggle against fascism. Even the television noted that because of the alcohol ban there were bottles of fruit juice on the tables.

In the evening I spent several hours with the pickets. There were many women and veterans there, but lots of young people too. A banner on a fence made of metal barriers read: "Liberated Territory of the USSR," with a map of the USSR and a poster reading "We demand television air time. Let us tell the people the truth." And a "Working Russia" demand: "Allow the opposition an hour-long television program every day."

Naturally there were no drunks or hooligans.

In the evening Vice President A. Rutskoy went on the Itogi program to make a tough statement essentially sanctioning reprisals. The program moderator was also zealous in fomenting passions.

And the people in the camp—maybe like 51 years ago—had a presentiment that a storm was coming; but they did not believe, did not want to believe, that aggression would be unleashed against them, unarmed civilians, and that the ominous order had already been issued....

...An alarm call awoke me at 0530. I rushed to the scene...As I came out of the VDNKh subway station I could see people with red banners. They were standing in a closely-packed group, shoulder to shoulder. There were some people sitting on the ground, a few lying under the trees. I saw with my own eyes bloodied faces, split heads, swollen red scars, bruises, and cuts. A megaphone-amplified voice made me tremble and stopped me in my tracks:

"Compatriots! Fifty-one years on the fascist jackboot has again trodden on Soviet soil. At 0430 today a fascist gang of Luzhkov-Ponomarev OMON troopers dealt savagely and bloodily with the participants in a lawful picket. The entire square in front of the Ostankino television tower is awash with blood. More than 200 people have been injured. There are fatalities...."

The bloody victims of 23 February were not enough for them....

22 June 1992 will go down in history forever as a black day. At a time when the Dniester Region is ablaze, children are being killed in South Ossetia, and completely innocent compatriots of ours are being shot in other republics, we have to say at today's 5 o'clock antifascist rally a resolute "no" to the Yeltsin-Luzhkov provisional occupation government. [passage omitted]

I have tape recordings of dozens of interviews with those who suffered as a result of the bloody breaking up of an authorized peaceful picket. The world must know—and will know—the truth about the evil deed that has been done. So that nobody has any more illusions that the iron-clad jackboot of fascism is again trampling our soil.

Remember this black day: 22 June, 0430 hours, Ostankino.

Rally, Outcome Shows 'Confrontation Is Growing'

LD2306202192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Video report from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] As is known, the opposition in Moscow conducted a number of unsanctioned actions yesterday. There are casualties ensuing from clashes with representatives of the law and order bodies around Ostankino, Ryzhkiy Station, and Manezh Square. Vice President Rutskoy proposed that effective, emergency measures be taken to restore order and to consider the demands of the opposition groups. [video shows masses of demonstrators with banners reading "Work, Bread, Peace!", "How Are We Supposed To Live If We Have Nothing To Buy Food With", "Occupiers Out of the Kremlin and Ostankino!", "Hunger, Ruin, War!"; demonstrators carrying red flags and communist insignia; clips from various opposition meetings and news conferences]

[Unidentified commentator] The events of recent days force unambiguous conclusions to be drawn: Confrontation is growing in Russia, people are clashing head-on, and completely ignoble frenzies are seething. The process of fraternization among seemingly incompatible groups has intensified. Monarchists are uniting with republicans and anarchists are uniting with neocommunists. As the bolshevik Maksim said, there are thunder clouds over the city; there is the smell of a storm in the air. Look at the faces of the people posessed with anger; look what slogans they are carrying.

Analyzing the situation, we can say that the spectre of dictatorship has already arisen in the depths of the current manifestations of passions. We are being pushed toward it by the left and the right, by irresponsible intriguers and fanatical adventurists. They are all rushing toward the throne of power. They thirst to crush dissidents and show their iron hand.

Incidentally, the democrats who are in power also seem to be prepared to warm their hands on the flames of general hatred. Some of them think that the heat of passions will allow parliament and the congress to be dispersed, presidential rule to be introduced, and the opposition to be smothered. Then, they suppose, order can be introduced and the flywheel of economic reforms can be set in motion. There is no unity in the democrats' camp; they are moving in different directions. Yeltsin, for example, is signing a decree on bankruptcy which makes all loss-making enterprises illegal. At the same time Vice Premier Shumeyko is already thrusting another draft decree on the president. According to his document, disintegrating enterprises are to receive loans amounting to 300 billion rubles, free of charge, for their subsistence. Absurd? If only this was the sole example. Under such conditions of diarchy, parallels with the end of 1917 can patently be seen: the Kornilov rebellion, the Kerenskiy Directorate, the Bolshevik putsch. I would not like to believe in the truth of the English proverb: History repeats itself.

Soviet Navy Equipment Offered for Sale

AU2406122392 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 24 Jun 92 p 2

[Werner Stanzl report from Brussels: "Sale of the Soviet Navy"]

[Text] Almost every day, the military and naval attaches of the first, second, and third world get mail from Moscow that is to confirm the sale of the Soviet Navy. Long lists are presented as a bulging bundle of highly explosive material. On the one hand, the Russians offer fleet stocks that the Ukrainian Republic claims as its heritage of the empire, which can only increase the contrasts between Moscow and Kiev. On the other hand, nuclear submarines that India, Pakistan, and the Philippines are seeking are on the lists.

Only a short time ago, the lords of the Kremlin burst with pride about many of the items. Generations of

Soviet citizens had to do without what is called a decent standard of living their whole life long because of the arsenal's equipment. A NATO strategist in Brussels has now given DER STANDARD an insight into the bundle of papers that reads like the inventory of a compulsory auction. The Russian Nevikon Agency, which previously coordinated arms supplies to crisis regions, is acting as the liquidator.

There are papers and specifications concerning some items on which the stamp "top secret" was simply crossed out. On one photocopy, the first line of the old distribution key can still be seen. One of the recipients: comrade CPSU general secretary. "Only a few years ago, you would have been either celebrated as the best spy in the West or executed by a Soviet execution squad for possession of this document," the NATO expert said with a smile.

The document in question refers to the showpiece of the clearance sale. Three versions of the still unfinished aircraft carrier Varyag is offered: In its present state, finished, or finished with a complete training team for a two-year training period.

As is known, China is very interested in this item, while it was agreed with Moscow that Washington and the Alliance are to be continuously briefed on the state of the deal via the NATO Cooperation Council. However, members of the French Armed Forces who do not understand why money is simply given to Russia when a quid pro quo is possible, expressed their interest to their defense minister.

The Suvorov and Lazarev battleships, the Skrytiy and Vzyvayushkiy destroyers, all of which are armed with missiles for combat beyond the horizon, a large number of submarines, among which are also very modern ones, 1,600 combat aircraft, troop carriers, amphibious landing craft, assault boats, and an armada of T-72 type tanks are available, among other things. As many as 200 brand-new MiG-29 fighter planes have been offered to the Germans.

Since Pakistan, India, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Libya, and several South American and Southeast Asian states have shown interest in purchases, the NATO expert did not rule out possible proceeds of up to 10,000 billion schillings. This amount would be 10 times higher than the Soviet Union's foreign debts, for two-thirds of which Russia is liable.

Figures of Decline in Military Production Cited

PM2406131092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 92 First Edition p 3

[AEN report: "Military Orders Reduced"]

[Text] This year the structural restructuring of production at defense industry enterprises is taking place in the context of a 60-percent cut in military orders compared with the 1991 level and a total reduction in production of approximately 24 percent. The production of arms and military equipment will fall by more than two-thirds compared with last year. At the same time the production of civil machine building output will increase by 6.8 percent. The proportion of civil output in the total volume of the defense sectors' output will increase to 80 percent in 1992, as against 57.9 percent in 1991.

Plans for Armed Forces Development Analyzed

PM2406140192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jun 92 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel A. Dokuchayev under "Our Commentary" rubric: "The Russian Armed Forces: Phases of Formation"]

[Text] **Phase I (during 1992)**

—Creation of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry.

—Creation of the legal basis for the organizational development and functioning of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

—Development of the concept of the military organizational development of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

—Development of the structure, combat force level, and grouping of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

—Withdrawal of troops under Russian jurisdiction to the territory of Russia.

—Completion of the formation of the organs of command and control of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

Phase II (1993-1994)

—Basically complete the withdrawal of Russian troops from other territories.

—Reduce and reshape the troops (forces) and create a military infrastructure on the territory of Russia.

—Creation and legislative enshrinement of the system of social safeguards for servicemen, members of their families, and persons discharged from military service into the reserve or retirement (including, early retirement).

—Transition to a mixed system of manning the Armed Forces.

—Introduction of alternative service.

During Phases I and II the existing structures of the Armed Forces (Strategic Rocket Forces, Ground Troops, Air Defense Troops, Air Force, and Navy) and the military administrative division of the territory of the Russian Federation are retained.

The strength of the Armed Forces is reduced by 700,000 and, as of 1 January 1995, will consist of 2.1 million men.

Phase III

—Completion of the withdrawal of troops from other territories.

—Reorganization of branches of the Armed Forces and categories of troops (forces).

—Transition to a nondistrict system and the creation of territorial commands.

—Completion of the creation of groupings of the Armed Forces and the military infrastructure for peacetime.

—Reduction of the strength of the Armed Forces to 1.5 million servicemen.

This schematic concept of the formation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces presented to readers can be said to be official. This concept is held by the leadership of the Defense Ministry (it was expounded, in particular, by Army General P. Grachev at the scientific conference recently held at the General Staff Military Academy) and many senior officials from the country's leadership, starting with the vice president. At the same time it is clear that is not a plan fixed once and for all. Time could make adjustments, and substantial ones, to it.

What can be said about this concept? It is pretty radical. It envisages radical transformation of the existing structures of the Armed Forces, which are a legacy of the former Soviet Army, over nine years with a simultaneous considerable reduction in their strength. However, the reshaping will proceed in phases, in an evolutionary way, in the light of the country's economic potential. The creation of mobile, well-equipped Armed Forces suitable for operations in accordance with the strategic concept of deterrence and the guaranteed repulsion of aggression from any sector is a a labor-intensive process demanding considerable effort and caution. For that reason it is intended to retain the existing branch structure of the Armed Forces and the military administartive division during the first two phases. It is thought that breaking up these structures in the next two-three years at a time when Russia is in a very difficult economic situation could lead to a loss of troop control, a lowering of combat readiness, and—it cannot be ruled out—the utter disintegration of the Army.

The above chart does not give a complete picture of the objective of the planned transformations. I consider that the objectives were expounded in general outline in the Supreme Soviet Presidium statement on the priorities of the Russian Federation's military policy dated 1 April. It lays down that the Strategic Nuclear Forces are a means of preventing world wars directed against Russia and the other CIS states. Forces possessing highly accurate weapons and delivery systems are to be the basic factor in deterring large-scale and local conflicts. It is intended to create highly mobile forces to neutralize potential military conflicts.

The theory of the operational force grouping is being developed. It is intended to have small but powerful troop groupings which are ready to act wherever a real threat arises. They will be composed of troops and forces maintained in a state of constant readiness deployed so as to counter effectively any external threat, rapid-response forces geared to rapid redeployment and tackling the tasks of backing up the constant-readiness troops (forces), plus the strategic reserves, which are formed at times of threat.

The priorities in developing and purchasing arms and combat equipment, without which a strong army cannot be built, have also been determined today. In the opinion of Army General Grachev, priority should be given to the development of strategic arms, space and air defense systems, highly accurate long-range weapons, army aviation, reconnaissance systems, command and control, and the formation of highly mobile troops.

Shchit Chairman on Military Leaders 'Bankruptcy'

MK2506103592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
25 Jun 92 p 5

[Interview with Vitaliy Urazhtsev, chairman of Russia's "Shchit" Union, by Aleksandr Putko; place and date not given: "Do the Generals Hate Urazhtsev?"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Excerpts] Our interlocutor Vitaliy Urazhtsev is a reserve colonel, chairman of Russia's "Shchit" Union, and Russian people's deputy. At the All-Army Officers Assembly the military nomenklatura demanded that he be removed from the hall amid foot-stamping and catcalls.

[Putko] Vitaliy Georgiyevich, why do the generals hate Urazhtsev?

[Urazhtsev] Because I know too much about their ethics and actions. Because I tell the truth which they cannot deny out loud. Because rather than just verbalizing, I am actually trying to help our army, which they have brought to the end of its tether. Our organization has been in existence for three years now. In this time it has been able to help thousands of servicemen. This year alone 15,000 officers and ensigns have turned to us. We have started up a file which bears the inscription: "Shchit has helped." This contains a list of things we have done, the names of people whom we have helped to receive apartments, whom we have provided with legal protection, whom we have helped return to military service after unjust dismissal, etc. At the same time we expose shady dealings by high-ranking military bosses.

Here, for instance, is one of my first "scandals." Bribetaking was a regular occurrence at the editorial office of the journal KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL: The writers of articles were forced to share their fees. A certain Colonel Gerald Solovyev was there. He tried to fleece me of half of my fees. I naively told the party committee about this. Secretary Nikolay Pavlenko (then a colonel, now major general) promised to investigate. An investigation was conducted. Gerald Solovyev was promoted and taken on the GlavPUR apparatus as main liaisons officer [kurator] for military journalists' cadres.

During my work on GlavPUR I, then a young officer, saw a lot of this man and heard incredible, indescribable things about him. Before my eyes, for instance, Marshal A. Grechko's mistress was fixed up in a military institute. A special staff unit was even introduced for her. I remember the New Year balls to which the military leadership invited young officers and their wives. People got accustomed to them there. Then an officer was sent off on a tour of duty and his wife was summoned and told: If you want to stay with your husband, come to our party tomorrow evening. [passage omitted]

[Putko] It is well-known that during the August putsch you were one of the first to be arrested on the plotters' orders. On your release you actively defended the White House. I remember that you were convinced after the failure of the putsch that military reform would now proceed unhindered. What do you think today?

[Urazhtsev] To be honest, I am less optimistic. I put my ideas about military reform on the table for B. Yeltsin back in September 1990. But under Yazov you couldn't expect change. I hoped that reform would get moving when Ye. Shaposhnikov entered the leadership. But, regrettably, things went no further than departyization. So, as under Yazov, thousands of young guys carried on dying. The number of invalids and cripples has topped 100,000. There are hundreds of thousands of deserters on the run. It's also a matter of young lives that have been ruined. There has been no improvement in the overall state of the Armed Forces. Submarines are sinking, munitions' dumps are blowing up, and aircraft are crashing. Nearly 200 aircraft crash every year in accidents—equivalent to an entire air division! Our army is not combat capable today. The 10-year Afghan war confirmed this. To be frank, all previous wars have confirmed our military leaders' bankruptcy and lack of talent. If victories were won, it was at the cost of such casualties that they cannot be called victories.

As for the departyization for which Ye. Shaposhnikov takes credit, that is so far only illusory. All former political personnel are serving where they were before. Incidentally, to this day officers' party membership is still mentioned on their personal files and is still taken into consideration during their promotion.

[Putko] But there have at least been some changes?

[Urazhtsev] A Russian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces has begun to be formed. The first real steps have been taken. I was particularly reassured by the appointment of P. Grachev and A. Kokoshin to leadership posts. They are clearly in a mood to renew the army. P. Grachev and I are old friends—we studied at the assault school together. I am impressed by his determination, pure aspirations, and frontline experience. First-hand experience, moreover. He earned the title of Hero for performing combat tasks in Afghanistan with the least possible losses. Andrey Kokoshin is also a young man, full of energy, an outstanding academic and specialist in the defense industry field. We have already had meetings with P. Grachev and A. Kokoshin. It is gratifying that they are taking public organizations' opinion into consideration. Pavel Sergeyevich directly appealed to us: Give us your suggestions about cadres. Where are the people with the potential for renewal, progressive people with innovative ideas? Andrey Afanasyevich has asked us to help him select worthy people. Military men and civilians. We have joined in this work and, in order for this not to be confined solely to "Shchit," we have set up the Supervisory Council of Servicemen's Public Organizations. We have already recommended several people and can say with delight that they have all been appointed to eminent posts in Russian Defense Ministry structures. For instance, Professor G. Melkov, doctor of juridical sciences and a member of the "Military For Democracy" movement.

We have found a common language with General N. Stolyarov, chairman of the Committee for Work With Personnel. He is also attentive to our suggestions. We have, for instance, recommended Major General N. Chaldymov, a doctor of philosophical sciences and professor, for the post of chief of the Humanitarian Academy. After all only the names of the departments have changed at this academy (the former military-political academy). For instance, the departments of scientific communism and party-political work have now been renamed, but their leaders are still the same. Many of them actively supported the State Committee for the State of Emergency during the August putsch. They are now teaching and instructing officers.

It is very important now for leaders of the Russian Defense Ministry to be surrounded by likeminded people, it is important to ensure that the old nomenklatura does not clog up all the ministry's filters and seize the reins of government there. [passage omitted]

Farms Slow To Hire Military Units for Harvest

PM2306104392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 3

[Major A. Ivanov report under the rubric "From the Air Defense Forces Main Staff": "Military Ready to Help with Harvesting. But Farms Wonder: Is It Worth It?"]

[Text] Over 2,000 Air Defense Forces trucks have been allocated to help the countryside in the harvest. But the paradox here is that, although four battalions are ready to begin work now, farms are in no hurry to conclude contracts with them. The fact is that for the first time Army subunits will not be working at a loss to themselves but at contract rates. This does not suit everyone in the countryside. While the administrations of Russian oblasts and krays are wondering whether the military's help is advantageous, the latter are planning how to organize work to produce maximum return when there is an acute shortage of fuel and an almost complete absence of equipment and spares.

These questions, among others, were discussed at a scientific methodological meeting of the leadership of operational groups and motorized battalions due to work in the harvest. Major General Ye. Makoklyuyev and Major General V. Ishchuk, Colonel M. Strukov, and other speakers paid special attention to questions of cooperation between the military and local administrations, the preparation of machinery, repair facilities, field vehicle fleet equipment, and encampments, the creation of the necessary stocks of vehicle assets, and the observance of road safety. The need to work to prevent equipment from falling into disrepair was also particularly stressed. To that end the staff and duty structure of repair agencies has been changed, making it possible to enhance their potential. These subunits can work in two shifts and visit military companies at short notice to service and repair equipment.

The military, therefore, are ready to help out; the delay is due to the farm leaders.

Krasnoyarsk Station Becomes Furniture Factory

LD2306224692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Krasnoyarsk radar station, the building of which caused concern in the United States, will be re-equipped as a furniture factory, INTERFAX reports.

Central Bank Opposes Minting Gold Coins

OW1806154992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the current legislation, the Russian government cannot mint golden coins without the consent of the Central Bank which is against such an operation, Chairman of the Russian parliament's Sub-Commission for Banks Pavel Medvedev told IF [INTERFAX]. Medvedev believes that golden coins will not remain in circulation. They can only be issued to repay the wage debt. However, this will require very many coins, which will get scattered. Medvedev thinks that it would be more reasonable to use this gold for importing goods whose sale would increase cash circulation.

Commission Finds Fault With Bank, Ministry

OW2406181692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The joint commission of Russia's parliament and government has found a number of grave faults with the activities of the Ministry for Economy and Finance and also the Central Bank. By the report of the commission led by the deputy speaker Yuriy Voronin and Vice-Premier Georgiy Khizha, the Ministry and the Bank failed to notify the local authorities and pertinent agencies of the joint ruling by parliament and government on the due procedure of settling mutual accounts. The Central Bank has also failed to channel to its local branches in full the necessary credit resources.

The Central Bank has failed to reach an agreement with the Ministry of Finance on the size of "the special credits for normalizing settlements in the national economy".

Central Bank Defends Against Corruption Charges

LD2206203192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent T. Khudobina; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The leadership of the main directorate for Moscow of the Russian Central Bank met journalists today to discuss inaccurate reports about the activities of the Central Bank. The executives rejected allegations of involvement in the Chechen billions affair. The transfer to Moscow from Checheniya of a large sum of money was spotted by the bank's leadership, even though all the documents were made out properly and there was nothing to distinguish them from others. When two officers of the Checheniya Internal Affairs Directorate applied to the bank for the withdrawal of the documents, the application form which they submitted immediately aroused suspicion. The bank's leadership drew the attention of the Internal Affairs Directorate to the matter. So, it was precisely because of the vigilance displayed by bank staff that the affair came to light. No doubt we will learn the details after the investigation has been completed.

Showing journalists around the bank's premises, the executives complained about the cramped conditions and lack of equipment. Transactions are also hampered by the fact that not one single CIS state is meeting its obligations as regards payments. Not all of them have readjusted to the new arrangements for making settlements. Reciprocal nonpayments in Moscow amount to 130 billion rubles so far this June. Analysis of takings shows that, while the rate of expenditure has increased 8.3 times, receipts have increased only 3.9 times. Arrears on wages in Moscow amount to 2.5 billion rubles as a result. The solution to the crisis is obvious. Output of goods must be increased and the monopoly position held by manufacturers eliminated. Otherwise printing of banknotes will have to be resumed. But this is the fault of the government rather than the bank. When it embarked on deregulation of prices, it should have predicted and preempted the present situation.

New Bank To Help Advancement of Foreign Trade

LD2306170392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Suldin]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—A bank that was set up by Asarab, an association of cooperation with Arab countries, and several commercial structures in Moscow will help boost foreign economic activity. A range of joint projects with foreign companies will be financed with its aid.

The association has already implemented quite a few interesting projects over three years of its operation, its General Director Robert Klekovsky told ITAR-TASS. Therefore, its foreign trade turnover has surged to reach 70 million roubles. Russian producers of export-oriented output, primarily machines, equipment and finished articles are being vigorously involved in foreign economic activity. The association also helps set up export-oriented enterprises with the contribution of capital from Arab countries in the Russian Federation and expand cultural contacts. Asarab organises exhibitions of output produced by association members abroad, which enables them to acquaint themselves better with the world market.

On the association's immediate plans is to build a business centre in Moscow and form several joint-stock companies to market advanced technologies.

Deputies Insist Coup Leaders Be Released

OW1906085892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0745 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 18 Russian Deputies sent a request to the General Prosecutor of Russia Valentin Stepankov asking that Oleg Baklanov, Oleg Shenin, Anatoliy Lukyanov and a number of other high ranking officials of the former Soviet Union who were arrested after the August Coup be released.

In the address to Stepankov distributed in Moscow Thursday [18 June] the deputies said that the investigations of the case has established the lack of any evidence of betrayal and the criminal case against them has been dropped. "We feel that they are not a danger to society and their further incarceration is affecting their health", the statement said.

Stepankov Refuses Coup Leaders Appeals

OW2406164592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Appeals by all the members of the Emergency Situation Committee for changing the detention measures applied to them, similar to Vasiliy Starodubtsev, have been rejected—as IF has been informed today, Wednesday [24 June], by RF [Russian Federation] Attorney General Valentin Stepankov. "In this decision we proceeded from the specific role played by each prisoner in the crime they committed", he explained.

According to Valentin Stepankov, the materials of the case have been fully read by the former high-ranking security officer Vyacheslav Generalov, former USSR Vice-President Gennadiy Yanayev, former USSR Deputy-Defence-Minister Valentin Varennikov, former leader of the industrial directors' association Aleksandr Tizyakov, and the former USSR Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov.

The Attorney General added that the cases will go to court only after all the accused peruse all the documents.

Gorbachev Refuses To Represent CPSU in Court

LD2406203292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] During a meeting with the chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court this evening, Mikhail Gorbachev refused to represent the CPSU at hearings on the Communist Party which begin again on 7 July.

CPSU Official Views Latest Developments

AU2406194292 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 17 Jun 92 pp 1,3

[Telephone interview with Igor Belyavskiy, press affairs official of the CPSU Presidium, by Szerdahelyi; date not given: "The Russian Communists Do Not Even Give One Year to the President—They Are Not Putchists, They Are Just Organizing"]

[Text] A legally nonexistent party has made a formal decision to expel its leader who had already resigned voluntarily. We are talking here about a particular comedy in Moscow, with the CPSU and Mikhail Gorbachev as the protagonists of this tragicomedy. However, there are serious reasons behind this ridiculous decision, like the fact that, according to some rumors, the former CPSU could try to carry out a coup during Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States. We called Moscow to learn about all this. The gentlemen we called introduced himself as the person responsible for press affairs in the Presidium of the CPSU.

[Szerdahelyi] Excuse me, but I thought an illegal party could not make legal decisions. Nevertheless, you expelled Gorbachev.

[Belyavskiy] It seems the old slogans have to be used again, like the one saying that time is working for us now. This is really so because, in the current economic and political anarchy, there is a great need for the unity of the Communist movement and the restoration of the Soviet Union. An increasing number of people are thinking again that only the communists are able to lead this country out of the current problems. Thus, it is only natural to expel Mikhail Gorbachev from the party, a person who betrayed his party and his country.

[Szerdahelyi] Why did you wait so long with this decision?

[Belyavskiy] If you think that the timing plays a particular role, I can tell you that this is not the case.

[Szerdahelyi] Is it true that you tried to approach Gorbachev and win him over again for the cause?

[Belyavskiy] This is a lie! How should we negotiate with a man who so cleverly manipulated things from the background in August 1991 and, when everything collapsed, he quickly cleared his name.

[Szerdahelyi] You obviously mean the coup here, and you are making very serious accusations against Gorbachev!

[Belyavskiy] Indeed, these are serious accusations, and because we still have to wait for the court trial on the events in August 1991, the world should also be patient to learn interesting things about Gorbachev. These are not the real accusations, because only the last bitter attempts to save the country from collapse were made during the so-called coup. Gorbachev's main blame is that he let things degenerate to this extent. You should remember that, without Gorbachev, there would have been no German reunification and the regimes that call themselves democratic would not have come to power, either. However, with a series of decisions called reforms, Gorbachev made a criminal attempt to disintegrate the socialist system, sell the country to foreign capital, and dangerously weaken the former big power even militarily. These are not forgivable crimes anywhere.

[Szerdahelyi] I think history is now proving that the regime that called itself socialist was unviable....

[Belyavskiy] That is not true! I would say that it worked in an obsolete way, and it did not accept the real initiators fast enough; instead, it allowed bad people to lead its fate. Instead of a democracy and an East-West approach, we will be facing a new type of colonization if we do not change course immediately.

[Szerdahelyi] I do not agree with you, and I think you do not even expect me to do so. However, I would like to ask you whether, in your opinion, there is a real possibility of such a change?

[Belyavskiy] The present Russian leadership will fall within one year, and the people will initiate this. We will support these changes.

[Szerdahelyi] Perhaps the communists are already planning something now, during Boris Yeltsin's visit abroad? Coups are generally engineered when the "boss" is out of town!

[Belyavskiy] I reject the accusation of being putchists! I do not want to speak about our plans and strategy.

Hard-Hit Farmers Contemplate Strike Actions

PM2406133792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Ye. Arakelyan and V. Terekhina under the "Questions of the Week" rubric: "Will Tractors March on the 'White House'?"]

[Text] The change in the seasons has an effect on the nature of our strike movement as well: In winter the "White House" was picketed by miners, and in summer, in the run-up to harvesting work, the peasants are planning to go there on their tractors. Rural strike committees have already been set up in 20 regions.

However, this is the third straight summer that this has happened. But the situation in the countryside has gotten tougher this summer: Most kolkhozes and sovkhozes, even ones that used to be among the soundest, are threatened with complete financial ruin. This has happened because of the abrupt increase in the price of material and technical resources. The price of mineral fertilizers and chemical protection agents has risen by over 3,000 percent, that of some sorts of machinery and spare parts by 7,000 percent, electric power by 700 percent, mixed feed by 900 percent, and building materials by 1,100 percent. It is simply uneconomic for farms to produce anything now, since purchase prices for agricultural produce have risen by only 40-50 percent. As a result the farms always make losses. By the end of the year, according to extremely rough estimates, total losses sustained by farms will come to about 700 billion rubles. Agriculture can easily be included on the list of sectors threatened by complete bankruptcy in the very near future.

Although kolkhoz and sovkhoz representatives are threatening to strike, it cannot be ruled out that they will be supported by the private farmers too. The Association of Russian Peasant Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives, the private farmers' organization, which was initially fairly loyal to the government, is now furious: According to the private farmers, the price "scissors" [reference to graphic representation of divergence between rate of price increase of agricultural and industrial goods] have probably hit them harder than the collective farms—in these conditions they simply cannot stand on their own two feet.

The demands made of the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the Russian Federation Government that were adopted 3-4 June by the All-Union Assembly of Representatives of the Trade Union of Agro-Industrial Complex Workers and the Russian Agrarian Union boil down to one thing—budgetary appropriations that would help them get out of this disastrous situation. This is what everybody is currently demanding.

What the strike committees will do if the government refuses to meet their demands is not yet clear. The most militant voices propose blocking railroad lines and highways with tractors. The idea of a tractor advance on the "White House" has been mooted.

One thing is clear—the harvest will ripen by the end of the summer. It promises to be quite good. It has to be gathered in. Therefore the striking agrarians are unlikely to yield to the government without a fight. And if Muscovites suddenly see tractors on the streets heading for the "White House," they should not be surprised. Soon it will be harvest time!

Supreme Soviet Official on Ethnic Issues

LD2306183892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1923 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Unscheduled interview with Yevgeniy Abartsumov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, by interviewer Tatyana Khudobina; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Khudobina] Now that interethnic conflicts in Moldova and Ossetia have reached a critical stage, what is your standpoint as chairman of the Supreme Soviet international affairs committee and as a human being?

[Abartsumov] I think that, as they used to say in novels, the moment of truth has come. That is, when Russia has finally to determine its position in terms of defending its fellow citizens, or people who identify themselves with Russia. This, I would say, in general terms is in my view the priority in Russian policy with regard to defending human rights. All too often citizens of Russia have found themselves the objects of what is essentially hostile policy, feeling themselves to be second-class citizens. It isn't their fault that they, many people, millions of people, those who regard themselves as people of Russia—not necessarily Russians, they might be people of other nationalities—have found themselves in the position of immigrants or foreigners outside Russia as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Of course, our state, as Russia is something greater than those borders which used to be administratively drawn around the RSFSR, Russia naturally bears a moral and political responsibility for the fate of its fellow citizens.

Tragic events have indeed now taken place. On the one hand, Russia has always advocated the negotiating process, and we were very pleased, the Supreme Soviet, and the leadership, the government of Russia and the president, that the process seemed to have gotten under way, as Gorbachev used to say, that it seemed we had agreed on a peaceful settlement to the problems both in Moldova, between the Dniester region and the Moldovan leadership, and in South Ossetia, between Shevardnadze on the one side and the representatives, the leaders of the people of South Ossetia on the other side.

And look what happened, it turned out that, practically at the same time, this was wrecked, this peaceful settlement was wrecked, you know and everyone knows that the town of Bendery was seized, treacherously you could say, unexpectedly seized. Outrages occurred there, numerous killings, I don't know how many fatalities have now been established. And the same thing, in spite of accords guaranteed by Georgian State Council Chairman Shevardnadze, troops, units of the National Guard as he now admits himself, have been shelling Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, and turning it into a sea of fire, and this is in effect a region that has been totally destroyed.

And so, it is naturally the duty of Russia finally to take a firm standpoint. Instructions have been given to Russian servicemen, wherever they may be, to defend themselves, to respond to attacks. It is well known how many weapons have been stolen from us, they have ended up not only in the republics but often with all kinds of criminal elements. Of course, you have to defend yourself, and defend the civilian inhabitants as far as possible, too. This is what is interesting from the point of view of international law: that at the present time sovereignty is not of an absolute nature, in the sense of refusing to defend the rights of citizens who live in a certain state. That is, the world community now believes that the priority of individual rights, to life, elementary civil, human rights, has to be in evidence.

And so, in line with this broader understanding of international law, I don't see anything reprehensible in the fact that Russia is taking, I would say, a harder, more definite standpoint, a more intolerant standpoint toward violations of these human rights, towards killing totally innocent civilian inhabitants.

[Khudobina] Tell me, what is your view of the confrontation between the position taken by Vice President Rutskoy and parliament speaker Khasbulatov on the one hand, and the official position taken by the leadership of Moldova and Georgia on the other?

[Abartsumov] First of all, I wouldn't say this confrontation is irreparable. I can't say that all the expressions, the formulations used by the vice president or the speaker are to my liking. But I'll say that in essence I agree with them, both with Khasbulatov and with Rutskoy. However, I might be condemned for these words by citizens of Georgia or Moldova. The point is that the people of South Ossetia—if we are to talk about Ossetia—are essentially the same people that live in North Ossetia, and North Ossetia is part of Russia, from time immemorial, or quite a long time, at least two and a half centuries.

And, incidentally, when there were all these excesses, which are continuing in South Ossetia, and there died—citizens from North Ossetia died in the well-known shooting of innocent bus passengers—when they attacked military depots, military bases of our troops, and all, in South Ossetia, properly speaking outside Russia's borders and South Ossetia, in the Gori region, then our citizens died [sentence as heard]. And for this reason, this fairly tough language is quite acceptable because we recall when, at one time, some U.S. officer or other was slapped, the United States invaded Panama and established its order there. We are not planning to establish our order, but we must constantly stand up for the lives of our citizens.

And so I would say that there is such an understanding in international law—the human right to self-defence on the basis of Article Three of UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 of 1974. And this article of the resolution was adopted by consensus without a vote.

And so, in my view, this doesn't contradict international law even though we are accused by Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, whom I respect highly, and President Mircea Snegur of aggression or of attempts to encroach on another's territory.

But, incidentally, if one speaks about the Dniester region, it never was, after all, part of Moldova. The second issue is that if some ethnic community, ethnic territorial community wishes to join the Russian Federation, I don't think that it is necessary to shut down, to bar this right to it. In this sense, Khasbulatov's proposal, although it was made in such a form which was perceived by Georgia as provocative, is interesting it seems to me.

And, of course, the reaction of the world community will be interesting. It is probable that not everything will be unambiguous and positive, but this is what I would like to draw attention to. We often over-idealize this principle of the inviolability of borders. Of course, the borders between standing states should, naturally, be inviolable. And we signed the Helsinki agreement which stipulates this.

But very major events have taken place since that time. For example, the FRG swallowed up, or, annexed, or it is better to say that the people of the GDR joined the FRG. So here the former borders have already been violated, right? Now one can't have the same attitude to the inviolability of borders between standing states such as France, Germany, Britain, and so on, and states where, which have now disintegrated—the USSR or Yugoslavia.

Here, after all, the borders which existed between republics which have now become states—previously, after all they were not substantial, they were of an exclusively administrative, conditional nature and were made up, as they say—so why, properly speaking, is it now necessary to idealize these borders in particular, and not take into account this right of a nation to self-determination, and human rights, the human right to life, his civic right in keeping with generally recognized pacts on human rights?

[Khudobina] Yevgeniy Arshagovich, do you feel that Russia has finally defined its interests in these regions, and what are they?

[Ambartsumov] I would say that, of course, the primary interests of Russia are that there should be peaceful conditions on its borders and on its territory. And by the way, if one disregards Checheniya, say, perhaps, with the exception of Checheniya, then on the whole of the remaining territory of Russia, thank God, it is a great contribution of the Russian people, in the first instance, of the Russian people, of Russia as a whole, that we have had no events similar to those in Yugoslavia, say, we have overcome this ordeal, we have not given in to the ordeal of civil war.

But at the same time we are interested in there being stability in contiguous territories, in there being no fire, because it could set our home on fire, particularly, as has already been said, one cannot say that Georgia or Moldova is a problem only of the Moldovans or only of the Georgians, because other peoples live there, and apart from this, there are general Russian geopolitical interests. Because, whether people like this or not, whether non- Russians or Russians comprehend this or not, Russia will remain a great power, and in this sense, it has its own geopolitical—not imperial—interests. [Passage omitted: Khudobina question and Ambartsumov response on how he sees the resolution of the conflict in the long-term, including criticism of Gorbachev for having placed the tackling of the nationalities issue on the back-burner for so long].

Plan, Cost for Yeltsin 'Camp David' Revealed

PM1806124192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jun 92 p 1

[Article by S. Drozdov: "Yeltsin Will Be Able to Hunt Without Leaving the House"]

[Text] While Boris Yeltsin is busy with affairs of state in America, the president's team which has stayed behind in Moscow is preparing a new residence for him. Yegor Gaydar, to whom Yeltsin handed over his powers as premier on the eve of his departure, is probably personally seeing to it that the president is able to decide the fate of the country in comfort.

We have learned from trustworthy sources that, even while he was still first vice premier, Gaydar signed an ordinance which indicates that a new out-of-town residence is being prepared for Boris Yeltsin, and that it is to be extremely well refurbished, with all sorts of imported equipment being installed.

For this purpose 80 million rubles [R] and two million dollars have been allocated respectively from the Russian Government reserve fund, into which R2 billion are paid from the state budget every quarter, and from the republic's hard currency reserve which is made up of a 40-percent tax on enterprises' hard-currency earnings.

In principle Boris Nikolayevich is not badly provided with housing already. Naturally he has an apartment in Moscow, and also dachas in Arkhangelskoye (next door to Khasbulatov) and in Sosnovka (adjoining what used to be Suslov's dacha). He has also inherited Gorbachev's former residence. So that there is no reason to despair, as it were.

However, there is a cast-iron argument: In America they have Camp David, where Bush plays golf on Fridays, while Russia has nothing on those lines...

Ranking officials from the president's entourage prefer not to discuss this idea so as not to traumatize ordinary people yet again. However, we have been able to establish that the future presidential residence is located on the territory of the Zavidovo estate, 40 minutes' drive from Moscow.

At one time the reserve belonged to the USSR Ministry of Defense and was used primarily to satisfy the passion for hunting of the country's top leaders. Brezhnev was very fond of hunting boar there. The military department disintegrated and the hunting ground passed over to the Russian Federation Main Security Administration, the former KGB Ninth Directorate. The millions of rubles and dollars have been transmitted into the account of precisely this department.

Incidentally, the residence is already equipped with all the utilities and lines of communication which the president needs. There will be no need, either, to build a helicopter pad. It already exists.

Paper Sees End to Leaders' 'Infighting'

PM2306155392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[Article by Vladimir Kuznechevskiy: "Common Danger Bringing Russian Authorities Closer Together"]

[Text] It seems as though the almost year-long confrontation between the executive and the legislature in Moscow has been suspended and is possibly coming to an end. The national patriots' week-long orgy at Ostankino, with personal abusive attacks on the head of state, the continuing siege of Tskhinvali by subunits of the Georgian National Guard, the mass expulsion of the South Ossetian people from their historical homeland on Russian Federation territory, and, finally, the entirely unprovoked attack by the Moldovan Armed Forces on the city of Bendery have presented Moscow leading circles with a choice—either the two branches of power stop their infighting, set about restoring the Russian state's prestige, and provide real rather than verbal protection for their fellow citizens in next-door countries, or they will let our once-mighty state sink further into oblivion. After all, it is time to realize that relations with the United States and IMF aid will not ensure for our country the status of a powerful player in international politics if Moscow in its internecine squabbling does not set about restoring its prestige in the eyes of its fellow citizens.

By all accounts, the choice was made in the relatively brief interval before the president left for the United States and after the return of the head of the legislature from the Near East. Few people paid any attention to the fact that Ruslan Khasbulatov's 15 June statement on events in South Ossetia appeared after his meeting with Boris Yeltsin. Nor did they pay much attention to the fact that the emergency government session Saturday 20 June on events in the Dniester Region and South Ossetia essentially continued the line formulated in this statement.

It must be said that the Russian leaders were very late in formulating this line. In its assessments of the position of our fellow-countrymen in nearby countries, the West has long been far more forceful than Moscow. After the bloody events in Bendery the BBC in its 20 June evening news broadcast impassively reported: "The Moldovan Armed Forces launched an offensive on the town of Bendery, where the main inhabitants are Russians. For the past 18 months the Dniester Region, populated in the main by Russians, has been taking up arms to fight against the inclusion of the region in Romania, which could come about as a result of Moldova's joining Romania."

The Russian leadership's belated measures to formulate a resolute stance on this most important question can, of course, be explained. For instance, by the fact that Russia was expecting a more sensible and balanced position from national leaders in the former Soviet republics in respect of our fellow-countrymen and of the Russian Armed Forces units and subunits in those regions. But the events of recent days—particularly of Saturday 20 June—have shown that there is clearly nothing to hope for any more. Mircea Snegur is either hostage to circumstances which dictate the line of behavior which he is implementing in respect of the Dniester Region, or he is actually implementing a narrow, nationalistic, pro-Romanian course.

Eduard Shevardnadze's position is far more complex. Unlike Snegur, he has no political or social support in Georgia, since he was in Moscow for too long. Therefore he is, in my view, playing a purely political game, fighting not against Moscow and Russia but for the assertion of his leadership in Georgia. This political game has its own rules, and I would accuse him neither of cynicism nor of perfidy. His real political position with regard to Russia will soon become clear, I believe. But for the moment he is simply powerless.

One way or another it seems as though the events of last week have forced the upper echelon of our executive and legislature to finally pool their efforts on the basis of the only possible platform for such a purpose—the defense of the Russian Federation's national and state interests along its borders, the defense of the lives of its fellow-countrymen living outside Russia, and the defense of its Army. Needless to say, this does not mean that opposition to the president within the Supreme Soviet will disappear. But the opposition—particularly its extremist wing—will hardly be able to expand its influence. The president and the Supreme Soviet, by pooling their efforts in the sphere of restoring Russia's state prestige, have deprived the national patriots (national communists and, essentially, national socialists) of any opportunity of speculating on the president's having "forgotten" about Russia and its citizens.

Ownership Rights Central to Gaydar Program

PM2406094792 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 1

[Yuriy Rytov "Commentary": "Another Drastic Change...An Unexpected Appointment"]

[Text] So, it has happened. Contrary to the predictions of many experts, Yegor Gaydar has not only not resigned, he has received a new appointment.

Are there any short-term considerations behind this appointment? Not exactly, although it was announced on the day that the president left for the United States. It is quite obvious that this decision was dictated by a desire not only to get the promised dollars but also to strengthen the dialogue between our two countries, reaffirming the commitment of the top echelons of Russian power to the course of reforms.

But...What future do observers think is in store for the acting premier?

Boris Yeltsin is a serious man. And he is accustomed to performing the duties he has assumed. This means that there is no reason to expect Gaydar's resignation in the new few months.

The fate of the reform itself is a different matter. There are a great many questions here which will have to be answered by both Yeltsin and Gaydar.

The first of those questions pertains to the social thrust of the transformations. It is clear to each of our fellow citizens now that this is indeed the most vulnerable point of the reformers' program.

In fact, in what name and for what purpose are the macroeconomic transformations being carried out? Let us suppose for a moment that the "process is going on," in the words of one of our leaders, and that in 10-20 years or so our economy will begin to function normally. Who will reap the benefits of the reform? In theory it will be our children. But in practice they no longer need such transformations. What kind of generation will we be able to raise from our sick and starving children?

Undoubtedly the main aim of the reform, to reiterate Gennadiy Burbulis' words, is to create an economically liberated citizen. That means giving him property.

Land to the peasants! Factories to the workers! Do you remember those slogans? The Bolsheviks used them and seized power on the strength of them. And they duped both the peasants and the workers.

What is happening now? Will the workers get the factories that belong to them? No, they will not. Despite Anatoliy Chubays' repeated statements that the government's position has taken account of the opposition's criticism, the state remains the owner of the overwhelming majority of plants and factories. In what way, precisely? As the institution which issues to workers a considerable proportion of the so-called privileged shares, the "privilege" in this case being that the owners of these shares are deprived of the possibility of taking part in the management of the enterprise.

Consequently, given the proportion of the shares remaining in the state's hands (40 or 49 percent, it does not matter), the state remains the true owner of production. Therefore under the new banner you still have a state monopoly and the command system of economic management.

What about matters in the countryside? We often complain—too often—about the slow development of private farms. But in fact the campaign to create such farms is reminiscent of the period of "blanket collectivization." But is it in fact not simpler to declare private ownership of land and give it to the people already working on it?

Unfortunately, the upper echelons of power still adhere to the opinion that they, and they alone, can determine people's fate. None of them is ready to give people a right that is essential to any democratic country: the right to decide for themselves how they should live and work.

In short, there are many questions for Gaydar. But he is not the kind of "boy" that Khasbulatov portrays him to be. I am confident that he has already survived the grim period of acclimatization to the realities of our daily life, when the reality far from always coincides with the aim.

And that he will be able to answer the increasing number of new questions posed by life.

Significant Changes in Budget Considered

OW1906213992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After confirmation in the Parliament, the Russian budget for the second half of the year will be significantly different from the plan presented by the government, the chairman of the parliamentary committee on the budget, taxes and prices Alexander Pochinok said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX].

The chairman said that "the income and expense sections of the budget will undergo radical changes". Views part with the government in the definition of tax rates:

on added cost, profits, and individuals,—and on fiscal policies in the social and military sphere, and capital investment [sentence as received].

Pochinok said the hard currency section of the government's budget "was, to put it lightly, not very good", as it did not take into consideration the need to pay the debts of the Vnesheconombank of the Soviet Union and the unprofitable but necessary purchase of goods not produced in Russia.

In response to a question from "IF" on the proposed establishment of an exchange rate of the American dollar to the ruble of 1:60, Pochinok said the reality of this can be determined only after "we learn what hard currency resources the government and the Central Bank have and what their policy will be".

Pochinok approves the government's intention to issue gold coins. He said that "it would be naive to consider them an answer to the cash shortage". Pochinok feels that until the gold coins are put into circulation, they are valuable as a source of income "as selling gold coins is far more profitable than selling gold bars".

Supreme Soviet's Ryabov on Role of Congress

MK2306112192 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No 25, 17-23 Jun 92 (Signed to Press 16 Jun 92) p 7

[Interview with Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Republic, by correspondent Yevgeniy Smirnov; place and date not given: "To Get Away From Profanation of Democracy"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] "Democracy costs dear," Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic, declared in an interview with FEDERATSIYA's correspondent, addressing the political disputes which have developed over the question of the need for the continued existence of the Congress of People's Deputies as the top organ of state power. But a high price must not be grounds for abandoning democracy, he believes, referring to the vital interests of the individual and to the example of the United States, Britain, France, and other civilized countries, whose path toward democracy cost no less.

[Ryabov] In my view, the Congress has historically outlived itself as the top organ of state power and must sooner or later quit the political scene. In general, this form of representative power has been of a temporary nature right from the start. But all this certainly does not mean that a weakening of representative power can be permitted.

Of course, within the framework of representative power there can be redistributions of powers between the Congress and parliament. This is natural. Representative power must be adequate for the tasks facing society. But I do not believe that the Congress' present activity is a destabilizing factor, as some people maintain, although, of course, it is not effective enough.

Incidentally, in any society political forces can deliberately destabilize the activity of any organ—be it the parliament, the government, or the presidential structure—and then accuse that same organ of destabilizing the situation.

It is said that the Congress is not capable of adopting the constitution. Some people declare that the people must adopt the constitution by means of a referendum. But that is a profanation of democracy. Such a complex political document cannot be put to a referendum. Particularly not if it is a question of replacing a document on which hundreds of deputies, scientists, and specialists have long been working, with a draft created within a narrow circle.

The convening of the Constituent Assembly to adopt the constitution is, in my view, just such a profanation. In the present political situation many citizens will not even want to participate in the convening of this assembly. But if the Constituent Assembly does meet, who can guarantee that the distribution of political forces there will be more democratic than the one at the Congress? At the same time the Congress of People's Deputies already has tremendous experience of legislative work. I am sure that the Congress will adopt the constitution.

[Smirnov] The Russian and foreign mass media have recently been expressing great concern at the confrontation between the Supreme Soviet and the government. Does this confrontation not worry you?

[Ryabov] Of course it does. As it would any sober-minded person. In my view, it is necessary to find the roots and origins of this confrontation and not concentrate attention on trifles—who said what to whom, who approached whom, which normative act he adopted, etc. The crux of the matter is that this confrontation is a natural process of the formation of power. It is one thing to proclaim the division of powers as a principle of a democratic society and state, but another to implement it. Friction and conflicts are a natural result of the formation of the branches of power.

Look what is happening today. The government is essentially powerless. Why? Because it does not have a clear-cut legal basis for its activity. Parliament, for example, has constitutional norms and its own internal law—the standing orders and the Law on the Deputy's Status. That is something, at least. But what does the government have as a legal basis? An old law, which everyone has forgotten. Hence the ambiguity of its position. Hence the friction.

There is also the judicial power, of which people in our country have always been skeptical. They never believed in it, because it did not serve them. But today this power is beginning to acquire weight and authority in society. Take the Constitutional Court, for example. Many of our citizens have never heard of it or known what it is. All right, we will depart. But our place will be taken by others. The Constitutional Court will be something natural to them. A person will know that he can turn to this court with regard to violations of the constitution and that it will defend him. A court of arbitration is also being developed—something that no one could have imagined earlier. For the former state system of arbitration was not a judicial organ.

Finally, an individual is acquiring the opportunity to turn to an international court if he considers that the judicial system inside the country does not protect him. We have already enshrined this possibility in the constitution.

[Smirnov] Is it possible to understand you as meaning that the press sometimes lays it on a bit too thick with regard to the question of the exacerbation of the power struggle in the upper echelons?

[Ryabov] It seems to me that certain mass media often deliberately create political stereotypes and feed off them.

In general, just try to find a society or a state in which there is or has been no power struggle. There is such a struggle in both the United States and Britain. There the correlation between the legislative power and the executive power is not fixed forever. Did the parliament in those countries not retire into the shadows, taking up a secondary position, and did society not then realize that this should not be done? For the infringing of one of the powers really means the ending of democracy in general. Remember the Watergate affair, which very quickly altered the correlation of forces betwen the powers. And yet prior to that our theoreticians, or what passed for theoreticians, had written a great deal about the fact that, so they said, there was a continuous strengthening of executive power in the West and that parliaments were being turned into talking-shops. But then they had to calm down when they saw that you cannot build a theory on one fact or on one segment of history.

[Smirnov] What, in your view, is prompting the press to fuel passions over the subject of the confrontation between the legislators and the government?

[Ryabov] An attempt was made at the Congress back in April to examine the behavior of the press. But the Congress, in my opinion, adopted the correct decision not to tackle it and entrusted this to parliament. It is a question not of control over the press but of investigating whether its activity conforms to the law.

Some people are sincerely convinced that the press must exert pressure on parliament. That is nonsense! Its task is to inform society objectively and opportunely about the events and processes that are taking place, and it must operate on the basis of the law, while the journalist must have his own inner credo. Otherwise we get unbridled behavior and information terror.

[Smirnov] Could you cite an example of such terror?

[Ryabov] Read the stenographic record of the Sixth Congress, for example. Compare Ruslan Khasbulatov's statements with what the most radically-minded newspapers of a democratic tendency wrote about them later, and you will see an example of such terror. In any case, the harshness of the commentaries is not consonant with the statements by the speaker of parliament.

[Smirnov] The leaders of "Democratic Russia" have advanced the slogans: "Give President Yeltsin power for reforms!" and "Yes to a presidential republic!" What do you think about this?

[Ryabov] Naturally, the president must be given power to implement reforms. If he does not have that power. But, analyzing the decisions of the Sixth Congress, it is possible to be convinced that not one scrap of power has beeen taken away from the president. Everything he proposed was accepted by the Congress. Moreover, at the suggestion of the president himself the Congress clearly confirmed the provision that the legislative power must be engaged in lawmaking and in control functions and not interfere in the government's executive, administrative, and operational activities. This was enshrined in the resolution. The fuss raised by the press over this document does not tie in with an analysis of its contents.

The Congress' conclusion on the need to adopt a law on the Council of Ministers does not infringe executive power in any way.

[Smirnov] And yet the president, who is now the head of government, will have to look for a premier....

[Ryabov] Adopting the law within three months still does not mean that it will be in effect in three months' time. Second, adopting the law on the government does not mean replacing the government. It has not been stipulated that the premier's candidacy must be proposed within a certain time (still less, within three months). This has also been done at the suggestion of the president himself, who still wants to shield the government behind his broad back for some time (for several months).

Of course, you can accuse me, as chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, of defending the corporative interests of people's deputies. And yet, speaking about the Congress' adoption of the declaration, Yegor Gaydar also said that, by doing that, the deputies untied the government's hands to implement reforms.

In general, it is far easier to go to a rally and yell into a microphone than to sit down and work on the law on the government and also on laws in the interests of providing legal support for reform, creating the market, and attracting foreign investments.

[Smirnov] Your prognosis for the development of the economic reform....

[Ryabov] I do not believe, as some analysts do, that the situation in our economy will deteriorate toward the fall. But it will all depend on how effectively and quickly the government travels the path of reforms. I bluntly declare that the problem of improving finances is far from being the hardest to resolve. It is far more complex to carry out privatization, the restructuring of the economy, and land reform. But it is in just this way that the main levers of the economic reforms can be engaged.

[Smirnov] My final question. Will the Federation Treaty, in your view, help to achieve civic peace in Russia and to stabilize the economic situation, and how is it being implemented?

[Ryabov] By its very existence the Federation Treaty has already created good preconditions for stabilizing the political and economic situation in the country. This is a sound legal and political basis for the federative building of our state. At the same time it is very good that the document has been included in the constitution. Everything now depends on us, on the Russian parliament, on the Supreme Soviets of the republics within the Russian Federation, and on the soviets of people's deputies of the oblasts, krays, and autonomous entities. If the Federation Treaty remains just on paper, and if we hope that everything will proceed automatically in the future, without any effort on our part, then it will lose its significance. Moreover, in that case the document could even acquire destructive force.

The question of carrying treaty into effect and breathing full life into its articles is a very acute one today. I must emphasize that at present only a general plan of activity in this area has been worked out. Even though we have begun implementing it, it is too soon to speak of the results of this work, for it is only just beginning.

Take, for example, the treaty's provisions defining joint competence. In my view, these are the most complex provisions requiring efficient cooperation between the Russian parliament and the representative organs of the subjects of the federation.

In addition, the problem of coordinating the legal systems of the subjects of the federation not only with the center but also among themselves is extremely serious. It is important that the independence of the subjects of the federation in shaping entire branches of law, ranging from labor law to family law, serves progress and does not infringe the rights and freedoms of a citizen of the Russian Federation, regardless of where he lives today and where he will live tomorrow. This is a very complex problem. But it has to be resolved. It clearly makes sense to turn to the experience of foreign countries which have already successfully resolved similar problems. In particular, take the European countries, where the integration process has now been going on for several decades. For it takes place on a sound legal basis. We are now earnestly studying their experience of forming the legislative base and have sent specialists there.

From a legislator's viewpoint, what I am probably most afraid of today is that the republics' legislative possibilities might cross the bounds beyond which human rights violations begin.

The Federation Treaty—in the sphere of joint lawmaking—provides for the adoption of the fundamentals of legislation by the Russian parliament. But this requires serious scientific elaboration, because in many cases laws containing direct-action norms will evidently be needed. The thing is that a republic today is in a position to have its own legislation, while a kray or oblast does not have that possibility.

The threads of many of our problems come together in the Federation Treaty. I have only touched on legislation. But unless we resolve the problems connected with the economic reform, the components of the federation will be forced to independently seek possibilities for their own existence.

I believe, however, that the Federation Treaty still provides us with the conditions for cohesion and for jointly resolving the main problems facing all the components of the federation.

Poltoranin on Economic Support for Press

PM1706140992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jun 92 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed Report: "Civilizing the Press"]

[Text] Mikhail Poltoranin, deputy chairman of the government and Russian Federation minister of the press and information, believes that any attempt to encroach upon the Law on the Mass Media will have undesirable political consequences.

So how can society be shielded from insults in respect of specific people, from the degradation of humanitarian values, and from calls to violence which resound not only at rallies but often from the pages of certain newspapers and magazines? Poltoranin believes that the time has come to make the relevant amendments to the criminal, criminal procedure, and civil codes, and this way the Law on the Press would be left inviolate. Meanwhile he stressed that it is not a question of "gripping the press in a vise" but of placing it in the kind of conditions which exist in all civilized states.

With reference to economic support from the state for newspapers and magazines, Mikhail Poltoranin announced that the ministry has prepared a draft whose intention is to give the mass media—all of them, without exception—the chance to obtain interest-free credit from the bank. "The Central Bank has agreed to formulating the question in this way," the minister said. Furthermore, it is proposed to remove the taxation burden from newspapers and magazines.

Budget Limits Make Radio Moscow Future Unclear

LD2106184592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0610 GMT 21 Jun 92

[From the "Mailbag Program"]

[Text] [Levasheva] Next, a letter from (?Francis Hern) of Redland, Bristol, UK who writes: What does the future hold for Radio Moscow following the changes in the former Soviet Union. I have been listening to your broadcasts for nearly 12 years, and I would hate to see your station disappear from the airwaves. Now, David, this listener is from Bristol—does that give you a ring?

[Yeoman] Yes it does, I know Redland very well. I hope this will not happen, Francis. Following the dissolution of the USSR we have come under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation now, and we are financed from its budget. As for our future plans, many things still remain uncertain and unclear. Preparations are in progress for a number of joint projects involving Radio Moscow and broadcasting organizations in other countries too. As for Radio Moscow World Service, it altered its programming last December because of budgetary constraints. That specifically concerned the North American service which was integrated into the World Service. In the current economic crisis it is impossible to predict what will happen in the future. However we hope that Radio Moscow World Service will be able to keep up its work at the present level. And thank you for words of encouragement, Francis.

[Levasheva] On the same subject we have a letter from (?Ian Cathcart) of Aberdeen, Scotland who writes: I have listened to Radio Moscow since the old days when it was the mouthpiece of the Communist Party. Thankfully, it has now changed and become more objective and open to all forms of reason. I also listen to other stations beamed from Moscow, such as Radio Galaxy and New Wave Radio. Does Radio Moscow have anything to do with the two radio stations?

[Yeoman] First of all, thank you for your flattering remarks Mr. (?Cathcart). As for Radio Galaxy and New Wave Radio, these are independent stations operating on a commercial basis. In your letter you write that you recognize the voice of one of the presenters from Radio Moscow on New Wave Radio. The reason is that these and some other new radio stations have enticed some members of our staff to work for them by offering bigger salaries and fringe benefits as a lure.

Moscow International Offers Advertising Space

SK2106234092 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow International Broadcasting Station is now offering advertising opportunities. The people in 160 countries listen to our radio broadcasting station aired in 45 languages. Government cabinet members, parliamentarians, businessmen, and ordinary buyers in Europe, Asia, North and South America, the Middle East, Africa, and Australia will hear your advertisements.

You can choose the most convenient broadcasting times to carry commercial advertisements. Moscow International Broadcasting Station produces [words indistinct], offers its microphone for advertising companies' activities and goods, and gives regular radio programs to [word indistinct].

Markets in Russia and other countries of the CIS are now opened for broad cooperation in various business fields. You can have access to these promising markets with our help.

Awaiting your proposals, we hope for complementary cooperation.

Our address is: Business Department of the Moscow International Broadcasting Station, 113326, 25 (Daetunskaya) Street, Moscow. Our telephone numbers are 233-7984, 233-7979, 233-6438, 233-6207, and 233-7809, and our fax number is 230-2828.

Adviser on Russian Technology 'Sellout' Policy

AU1906104792 Duesseldorf WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHE in German 19 Jun 92 p 63

[Interview with Yeltsin adviser Nikolay G. Malishev by Horst Buchwald; place and date not given: "Sold Too Cheaply"]

[Text] [Buchwald] Mr. Malishev, in which areas do Russian scientists have top achievements to offer?

[Malishev] We have made progress in particular in refrigeration technology, the production of ultra-pure material, in biotechnology, and in turbine-building.

[Buchwald] And can one now expect Russian high-tech products to turn up on the world market?

[Malishev] Even with super-good products one has to overcome enormous opposition to get into business. And until Western Europe gets used to the idea that we have more than wood, coal, oil, and natural gas to sell, our chances are low.

[Buchwald] You will hardly be successful in selling your products if you just wait for Western Europe's attitude to change, in particular since your research sector already threatens to bleed to death.

[Malishev] This is indeed a problem. I do not want to accuse anyone, but the Americans have always bought up the best scientists.

[Buchwald] And what do you intend to do to stop that?

[Malishev] We must get rid of an old habit. So far we have sold everything at ridiculous prices. Parliament is already discussing laws that ensure the protection of our high technology. All authorities must participate in stopping the sellout, including the KGB intelligence service.

Aerospace Experts on Reusable Space Systems

LD1306151492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0610 GMT 12 Jun 92

[From the "Mailbag" program presented by Boris Belitskiy]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] And now question time. Our first question today is from Timothy Keenan in Saginaw, Michigan, in (the) United States. Will you please tell me, he writes, why Russia does not fly its space shuttle?

[Passage omitted on economic reasons for space shuttle's grounding]

[Announcer] Do such views mean that the idea of (?a) reusable space system is to be abandoned altogether?

[Belitskiy] Oh no no, the idea of a reusable space system as such has not been discredited at all. In fact several of our leading aerospace experts are working on projects in that field and they could very well materialize should the economic situation take an upward turn or should cooperation with other countries make it possible.

[Announcer] What about telling us about some of these projects Boris.

[Belitskiy] These experts are working on aerospace systems of a new generation which should greatly reduce the costs of putting a payload into orbit. That is the main consideration after all. Furthermore this is to be a multipurpose system intended for putting all sorts of payloads into orbit and that's why the Russian abbreviation for it, UMS, where "U" stands for universal, reflects this multipurpose character.

[Announcer] And the other two letters, "MS"?

[Belitskiy] Oh they stand for reusable system, in Russian. Naturally what has been accomplished in developing the Buran-Energiya system will be put to use in the new system.

[Announcer] You say there are several projects Boris. In what ways do they differ?

[Belitskiy] They differ mainly in the type of launch and the structure of the spacecraft. For example there is a project for a vertically launched, two-stage reusable system, something like the Shuttle-2 project in the United States. A system with a launch weight of about 675t [tons] would put a payload of about 25t into orbit. By the way the first-stage engine in this case would be based on the liquid fuel engine of the Energiya rocket.

A second project envisages a two-stage reusable system based on a subsonic plane of the type of the huge Mriya transport. In this case there would be a definite similarity with the British HOTOL [horizontal take-off and landing] project. The payload would be about seven tons. A third project would produce a two-stage reusable system based on a hypersonic plane. An engine for such a plane has now been developed and tested. [passage omitted]

Satellite Launched From Plesetsk Cosmodrome

LD2306215992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2137 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—Russia launched a Resurs-F space satellite on Tuesday [23 June] from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome.

The satellite is carrying equipment for multizonal and spectrozonal photographing to explore the earth's natural wealth for the benefit of the national economy, nature protection and international cooperation.

The satellite has the following parameters:

—initial orbital period—88.6 minutes,

maximum distance from the earth's surface (in the apogee)—257 kilometers,

—minimum distance from the earth's surface (in the perigee)—190 kilometers,

orbital inclination—82.3 degrees

The equipment aboard the satellite is functioning normally.

Supreme Soviet

Session Passes Bill on Federal Security Bodies

LD2406120592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow June 24 TASS—The parliament's council of the republic today passed the first reading of a bill "On Federal Security Bodies", setting the rights and duties of Russia's Secret Services.

The bill will replace a top secret procedure for "The Committee for State Security Under the USSR Council of Ministers", devised by the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee way back in 1959 and the ideologically-biased May 1991 law on "State Security Bodies in the USSR".

The new act is in line with the Russian Constitution and declarations on human rights and freedoms. The document guarantees protection to citizens from encroachment by security services on their rights. It also puts secret services under the control of parliament, president and the prosecutor's office.

The security service's administrative powers have been slashed to protect human rights. The bill will not require additional financing of the federal security bodies, Finance Ministry experts said.

Barchuk Urges Curb of Ruble Flow From CIS

LD1706193592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1601 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow June 17 TASS—The Russian Government should take measures to curb the flow of roubles to Russia from other CIS states, Russian Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk said on Wednesday [17 June].

Addressing the Russian parliament, Barchuk said the current shortage of cash in the republic can be alleviated by boosting non-cash deals and increasing payments by transfer. He said the Central Bank of Russia has agreed to open a credit line to the Ministry of Finance.

The Bank will issue ten per cent credits to enterprises for up to two years to pay their debts. The interest rate will change depending on the level of prices.

"We are now negotiating with the Central Bank prospects for issuing credits to retail and wholesale trade," Barchuk said.

More on Hearings of Ostankino Events

PM2406120792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 92 First Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Linkov: "Extremists Striving for Power"]

[Text] Parliamentary hearings into one of the most burning questions of the day—"The Threat to the Constitutional System in the Country in Connection With the Galvanization of Extremist Forces"—opened at the White House 22 June on the initiative of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for the Mass Media, Relations With Public Organizations and Mass Movements, and the Study of Public Opinion. The political situation in Russia has deteriorated. A graphic manifestation of this is the events which developed around the Ostankino television center initiated by the "Working Russia" and "Working Moscow" neocommunist organizations.

How is everything that has happened to be assessed; does it correspond to the law? If not, why were appropriate measures not taken immediately? Democrat deputies firmly believe that we are witnessing a direct threat of fascism since appeals are openly being made for the violent overthrow of the legal authorities and the unleashing of civil war. To avoid paraphrasing, let me cite individual passages from a leaflet currently being distributed in Moscow urging people to sign up with a people's militia: "...war is coming very soon—civil war, merciless war...We are advancing toward a class war, a war for the right to live and work freely on our own land. We must be ready for this war..." It then gives the address people have to go to and the number of a bank account for material assistance.

Speaking at the hearings, Moscow Prosecutor G. Ponomarev noted that a rally and picket of the television center had been authorized by Moscow City Hall. But subsequent events started to develop in a completely different way from what was indicated in the application. And here the leadership of the Internal Affairs Administration displayed hesitancy.

Ostankino Television Company head Ye. Yakovlev spoke about the authorities' impotence. In his view, the law-enforcement agencies adopted a wait-and-see stance and are unwilling to act within the framework of the law. The street opposition only made a feeble attempt to seize the television center, since that was not really what it needed. All its leaders need is open confrontation, human blood. This was the sole purpose for which the actions were provoked.

The same thought was taken up by Russian Television leader Oleg Poptsov. The question at issue right now must be not the Ostankino television center but freedom per se—whether it is to be or not to be in Russia. Freedom is precisely the question that is being decided. The opposition is attacking on all fronts and has already started creating its own militarized organizations.

Incidentally, it is precisely the creation of volunteer combat militias that most alarms Security Ministry representatives. Ye. Savostyanov, chief of the Russian Security Ministry Administration for Moscow City and Oblast, and Deputy Security Minister A. Safonov noted this alarming trend.. The neocommunist opposition is increasingly seizing the initiative in the political struggle by playing on the difficulties of the transition period, bringing people out into the streets, and acting in an increasingly brazen manner. The transition to organizations of armed men is yet another step. But under the law a Security Ministry representative has no right to interfere in the activity of public organizations.

The course of the hearings showed that a pretty complex political situation has developed in Russia today, a situation further intensified by legal problems. And extremist organizations of a neobolshevik type are trying to exploit the resultant kind of vacuum for their own ends in the struggle for power. The Russian parliament cannot predict how events will develop, either.

Further on Discussions of Media Policy

LD2406140792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] The Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet committee for the media today held hearings on state policy in this sphere. As this problem was discussed by people's deputies, journalists, and representatives of the executive and legislative powers, it was realized that the legislative basis for a clearer regulation of the relationship between the press and political forces in the republic is inadequate. Our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov reports on the details:

Russian Press Minister Mikhail Poltoranin, who set the tone for the parliamentary hearings, gave priority to the material and technical supplies to the press in new economic conditions. The situation here is truly difficult, and for many newspapers and magazines it is even critical. This concerns both the monopoly of paper production and the ownership of printing equipment. It seemed that most of the time would be devoted to a discussion of these problems, but there were different reactions when the question of setting up observing councils [nablyudatelnyye sovety] in newspapers, and on television and radio, was raised.

On behalf of the council of the deputies's factions, people's deputy Vladimir Novikov stated: "We can hardly be expected to produce a better version. We tried to take international experience into consideration, and as a way out of the present situation we propose the setting up of observing councils."

According to Novikov, this is necessary, given the distributive system which exists today. [passage omitted]

The events which unfolded in the past few days outside the Ostankino television center caused the hearings to consider the question of who is to determine whether journalism is objective or partial, who has the right to television and radio broadcasting time, and what laws and political trends should apply to journalists in Russia. Yegor Yakovlev, the chief of the Ostankino television company, tried to answer these questions.

[Yakovlev] "You see, the statesmen who were accustomed to suppress speech believe that they were observing freedom of speech simply by stopping their suppression. Suppression or nonsuppression is not the issue; it is by ensuring that the media and information organizations have freedom of speech that executive bodies observe freedom of speech. Throughout the 10 days when the unseemly events outside Ostankino were taking place, the executive authorities did not ensure our freedom of speech. Because of the events in Ostankino, I have come to the conclusion that the Supreme Soviet is not unanimous in defending the constitutional system, because deputies from the Russian Supreme Soviet were among those committing excesses, abusing the permission to hold a demonstration, and taking part in an unauthorized rally. Therefore, I conclude that the Supreme Soviet is not unanimous in defending the constitutional system."

[Osipov] Similar statements at the parliamentary hearings dealt mostly with political broadcasting and political information. But, I think Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company, was right when he expanded these boundaries:

[Poptsov] "In programs dealing with culture, ethics, and morals, the opposition and the opinion of the opposition should ennoble the entire spectrum of society's thoughts, and not just a narrow spectrum of political motives, as this is the way the conscience of the society is being formed and we are trying to do this."

[Osipov] Understandably, when so many different points of view had been heard, there was no question of producing any summarizing document or of reaching any organizational conclusions. That is why it was decided to examine specific proposals by press workers on the problem of the state policy in this sphere, and to examine these later at a session of the Supreme Soviet.

Soviet of Republic Amends Russian Civil Code

LD2406190992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Separate meetings of the chambers are taking place in the Russian parliament today. At the morning session, the Soviet of the Republic adopted a law on amendments and addenda to the Russian Federation's civil code, bringing articles of the latter into line with the law on the mass media. It brings into line the part of the code which concerns the refutation of information which encroaches upon the rights of citizens and organizations and which does not conform to the facts. After this, discussion began of the draft law on insurance, in which economic and legal guarantees for an independent insurance system are set out. Both chambers intend to consider a draft law on the federal security bodies today. [video shows parliament in session]

Government To Increase Grain, Tobacco Imports

OW2306212792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the 24 June "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As of the beginning of June, Russia, which needs a minimum of 25 mn [million] tons of imported grain for the 1991-1992 agricultural year, had not yet received (according to plan) more than 7 mn tons of grain, Aleksandr Kudelya, deputy chairman of the committee for grain products said on Tuesday [23 June] at a parliamentary hearing. According to Kudelya, this month's deliveries are also severely delayed. Due to the grain shortage, mixed-fodder production for livestock dropped by one quarter and production of groats by one third, while flour processing remains at last year's level.

The main reasons for the grain delivery problem in recent months are the lack of funds to pay freight costs (Russia owes foreign shipping companies over $40 mn) and the lag in dispatching exports of oil products and oil,

payments for which cover much of the cost of grain imports (Russian debt for these deliveries is now worth $261 mn).

INTERFAX has learned that at a closed meeting June 9th the Russian government passed the decision to give oil and oil product deliveries "primacy" in order to pay off credits received earlier to purchase food, and immediately find $16 mn to pay freight costs.

The Russian government wants to reconsider its use of Italian and Turkish credits, proposing to use them as payment not for finished tobacco products, but for raw materials in order to bring Russia's tobacco industry back up to capacity. The Cabinet thinks that it is also necessary to increase purchases of dried milk and baby food, "temporarily" limiting imports of meat and butter for hard currency. In 1992 Russia's grain harvest, according to Kudelya, will total 92-98 mn tons, which is somewhat lower than initial forecasts and only slightly higher than last year's level (89 mn tons).

Regional Affairs

Dniester Leader Holds News Conference in Moscow

LD2406024692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] A news conference by Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester republic, which is not recognized by Moldova, has taken place at the Moscow City Soviet. It discussed the situation in the Dniester region and Bendery. After the news conference ended, our correspondent Vlkadimir Korablev interviewed Grigoriy Markatsa for Mayak Radio and asked him to reply to a few questions. Let us listen to a recording of their conversation.

[Begin recording] [Korablev] Grigoriy Aleksandrovich, please tell us what the situation is like in Bendery and the Dniester region.

[Marakutsa] The situation in Bendery is very complicated. It resembles such periods as the Great Patriotic War, when during 24 hours the town passed from one side to the other.

[Korablev] In whose hands is the town today?

[Marakutsa] Unfortunately, the information that I received at about 0400 is that between 0000 and 0400 the town was captured by the armed forces of Moldova. There are many fatalities. Fighting is now under way there.

[Korablev] Judging from your report, the conflict in the Dniester region, and in Bendery in particular, has already gone too far between Moldova and the Dniester region. Nevertheless, can it be resolved peacefully, through talks, through a search for some compromises in order to stop this fratricidal war?

[Marakutsa] Well, of course it can. Any conflict can be resolved peacefully, without....[Korablev changes thought] But for this purpose one thing is required: that both sides have a wish to do so, to meet each other half-way somehow, to find some compromises. But if Moldova is categorically unreceptive and says that it will not talk with anyone and will do everything in order to restore its structures, etc., well, you understand that this would become impossible. But then, we did not cross over, I would say, and we did wage war on Moldovan territory. The leadership of Moldova stated openly that it will move across the Dniester region in a blitzkrieg and conquer it. This is what is terrifying. And that is why it is not making any concessions. That is why I have no hope left for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. So one needs to find strength to resist.

[Korablev] What is the aim of your trip to Moscow?

[Marakutsa] Taking into account the situation in which Moldova has categorically refused to agree to compromises and to form a federation, you know a decision has been adopted by our Supreme Soviet to confirm once again the unshakeability of the sovereignty and independence of the Dniester republic. And even if we previously proposed, after this decision on 2 June, to find a way to conclude a federation treaty, today I told journalists—and indeed, this is the people's view—that this question—or search, as people say—has slipped away. It is no longer possible to bring anything together. It is for this reason that I have come: first, to request that the Dniester republic be recognized by Russia and other states as a sovereign, independent state. [end recording]

Moscow Council Condemns Dniester Bloodshed

OW2506090992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0647 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moscow City Council condemned the military operations by Moldova in the Dniester region and Georgia's actions in South Ossetia, and demanded an immediate end to them. The press of the Moscow City Council said the resolution passed at Wednesday's [24 June] session emphasizes that the participation of Russian forces in ethnic conflicts outside the republic is impermissible.

The Moscow City Council appealed to the Parliament and the government of Russia to take necessary steps to protect civilians and the families of Russian servicemen. The council also proposed that recognizing the Dniester republic be discussed. The Moscow administration was told to make preparations to receive refugees from the conflict zone and set up centers to attend to the wounded. The session of the council heard reports on the events June 22 at the Ostankino television center where police dispersed a camp set up by the opposition, and formed a committee to investigate the matter in detail. All government departments and officials were directed to cooperate in the investigation, to present requested information and documents, and provide explanations to the deputy committee conducting the investigation. The committee must present its findings at Thursday's session of the council.

Stankevich Notes Deaths

LD2306215392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Sergey Stankevich, first deputy chairman of the Moscow City Soviet, stated that 260 people have died during combat actions in Bendery. Of these, only 18 are Dniester Region Guards; the rest are civilians. According to Stankevich's information, the Moldovan side fired rockets on one of the schools in the Dniester region during a graduation ball and all the graduates were killed. [passage omitted]

Fiber Optic Communications To Appear in Moscow

MK2406112992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 92 p 6

[Nikolay Ulyanov report under the "Communications" rubric: "Project Bound To Succeed. Laying of Fiber Optic Artery in Moscow Will Begin This Fall"]

[Text] The poverty of Moscow's local cable television systems, the limited nature of the expansion of the city telephone network, and the complete absence of direct channels of communication between the city's numerous commercial enterprises demand the creation of a unified city telecommunications system.

Various structures have tackled this problem but, by all accounts, the project submitted by the "Upravleniye perspektivnykh tekhnologiy" [promising technology administration] joint-stock company has proved the most realistic. This project is already being implemented in Novgorod, Tolyatti, and other Russian cities.

The fiber optic cable information system will include a basic communications network, a digital telephone communications system, a cable television system, and a city computer network. All the complexes are based on available Russian equipment. The essence of the basic idea is as follows: The channels of the fiber optic cable which is laid are notionally divided into three parts—for telephone communications, cable television, and computer communications. The television part of the cable will transmit state television signals from Ostankino, local television signals from studios located in prefectures, and transmissions of various commercial television companies. The television broadcasts will be transmitted in digital code form on the PAL and SECAM standard at a speed of 140 megabits [140 mbit/sek] per second.

The city computer network will make it possible to unite the local computer networks that exist in enterprises and establishments in a citywide ring.

The project is being realized by the Moscow Commodity Exchange, the government of Moscow, the MGTS [expansion unknown], the Russian Federation Main Radio Broadcasting and Television Center, the International Association of of Enterprise Managers, the Moscow Small Business Support Fund, the "Moskvasvyaz" Association, and other organizations which have founded the Moscow Telecommunications Corporation. Yuriy Pripachkin, member of the exchange committee of the Moscow Commodity Exchange, has been elected president of the corporation.

He told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent that laying of the fiber optic artery in Moscow will begin in October-November this year. The total cost of the work is between 8 and 10 billion rubles. Construction will take five years, and the first stage will be commissioned in one year's time. Yuriy Pripachkin remarked that, since the project is being elaborated by commercial structures which know how to count money, the citywide telecommunications system really is bound to appear soon.

Moscow's Public Transportation Fare Doubles

LD2406090992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow June 24 TASS—Public transport fare has doubled, effective from today. The government of the capital has not managed to assign funds from its already meager budget for a subsidy for transport. Therefore transport fare is now one rouble, a spokesman at the passenger transport department told ITAR-TASS.

Moscow Government Limits Issuance of Gas

LD2306153192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT23 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister of the Moscow government issued an instruction banning gas stations from giving out gas in any capacity apart from in motor vehicle fuel tanks. This is due to complaints from motor vehicle owners about the unsatisfactory organization of refuelling. Checks on refuelling at gas stations showed that people often fill up gas cans and then resell the gas to motor vehicle owners. The norms for giving out gas are not being observed in a number of instances. A criminal situation has arisen at gas stations.

Dilapidated Gas Mains Kill Several in Moscow

MK2306110792 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Will There Be No More Explosions?"]

[Text] The capital's network of underground utilities is said to have been built by Roman slaves. It is that much out of date. Huge sections of pipelines are in a disastrous condition. Several people have already died as the result of explosions caused recently by gas leaks. Muscovites must be saved. In this connection the city government has decided to set up a group of so-called disaster experts, who will dectect defects in our underground pipes in advance.

Moscow Branch of CPSU Reorganizes

LD2206163292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] RIA reports that the conference to reestablish the CPSU organization in the Moscow region has taken place in Moscow. A decision was made on creating a single organization for communists in Moscow and in the oblast. Delegates were elected to the 29th CPSU Congress which will open on 4 July.

Chechen President Accused of Discrediting Post

LD2506110492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Husayn Akhmadov, chairman of the Chechen Supreme Soviet, declared at a meeting of the parliament that presidential power is being discredited by President of the Chechen Republic Dzhokhar Dudayev and his entourage. This was reported today by the ANI agency.

The conflict which has been brewing for a long time between the president and parliamentarians has erupted in open indignation from the parliament. Ibragim Suleymanov, chief of the National Security Service, accused the president of breaching the republic's Constitution and has proposed that parliament should consider whether the existence of the post of president is, in fact, expedient.

Chechen Armed Forces Establishment Begins

LD2406195592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Jun 92

[R. Khazhiyev video report from Groznyy; from the "Vesti" newcast]

[Text] Following the withdrawal of Russian troops from Checheniya, the Chechen President Dzokhar Dudayev has started fundamental work on setting up Checheniya's own armed forces. It was stated by General Shakhabov, chief of staff of the Chechen Army, that there would be no need for this if Checheniya was recognized as a CIS subject. The first men drafted for military service are already settling into military encampments. It is expected that the total strength of the Chechen Armed Forces will be some 10,000 men, even though, as the president noted, he could gather 50,000 men. The structure of the armed forces of the Chechen Army will include an air force squadron, motorized rifle units, and the National Guard. The command of the armed subunits will be carried out by officers of the former Soviet Army, mainly of Chechen nationality. The main doctrine of the Chechen Armed Forces, as the official authorities say, is defense. [video shows footage dated 22 June showing armored personnel carriers stationary at military cantonment]

Cossacks Seize Krasnodar Administration Building

LD2306130792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1052 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Krasnodar—On June 22 Cossacks seized the building of local administration in the town of Kurganinsk, Krasnodar area.

Mikhail Savva, head of inter-ethnic affairs department of the Krasnodar area administration, told PF [POSTFACTUM] That a group of approximately 100 Cossacks led by Deputy Ataman (Leader) of their local organization Yuriy Tischenko had blocked the building and seized control of all telephone lines. The Cossacks would not let administration officers to communicate with anyone and insist on holding negotiations with administration head.

According to unchecked reports, two armored personnel carriers appeared on the streets of the city with uniformed Cossacks on board, however unarmed. Supposedly, the vehicles had been delivered from a military unit in Armavir. The immediate cause of the action was a publication in a local newspaper in which a deputy head of the local administration disapproved of the demand of Kuban Cossacks to clear the Krasnodar area from ethnic Armenians. The Cossacks wish to talk with head of the local administration about the situation in the town and discuss some of the appointments of local leader's deputies. The attempts of Krasnodar area council to communicate with Kurganinsk administration failed because of Cossacks' resistance.

Cossacks Demand Russia Retain Kuril Islands

LD2206195892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2340 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gorelov]

[Text] Birobidzhan, 21 Jun—The problems that have arisen regarding the Kuril Islands have not left Cossacks from the Birobidzhan section of the Amur Cossack Host indifferent. A rally attended by a fair amount of people was held here under the motto: The Kurils have always belonged to Russia, and we will not surrender them to anyone. The Cossacks did not make their demands alone. They were warmly supported by representatives of the local section of Russia's Democratic Party, veteran soldiers, young reservists, and a Russian Orthodox priest. The participants in the rally sent a message to the president of Russia. Signatures of the local population are being collected in defense of the Kurils.

Khabarovsk Official Comments on Power Plans

OW2306133892 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Service in Russian 0715 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Interview with Vitaliy Lebedenko, director of Dalnevostochnaya atomic power station, by Nadezhda Kolosova; place and date not given; from the "Pacific Ocean" program—live or recorded]

[Text] As you know, there are plans to build atomic power stations in the Far East. Today, we have with us Vitaliy Lebedenko, director of the Dalnevostochnaya atomic power station currently under construction in Khabarovsk Kray. Journalist Nadezhda Kolosova interviewed him.

[Begin recording] [Kolosova] Vitaliy Tikhonovich, an article entitled "Behind our Backs" recently appeared in the Dalnevostochnyy Komsomolsk newspaper. What is more, persistent rumors on some kind of secret decree by the Kray administration on building an atomic power station in Komsomolskiy Rayon circulate in Khabarovsk.

[Lebedenko] What can be said about this article and about correspondent Tsvetkov's address on the Kray radio? I want to say straight away that incorrect facts are being published. Not all of them, but some are interpreted in such a way as to make them incomprehensible to the average person. Therefore, I would like to make an official statement and calm everyone down.

Last year, information on the course of processing the technical and economic data [for an atomic plant] was released at the Kray session of People's Deputies. Except for this, no work connected to the planning or building of atomic power stations is, or could be, being carried out. The uproar was caused by the fact that we had to determine the location of settlements, auxiliary and agricultural enterprises, and industrial facilities in order to complete the [words indistinct]. When we began solving these questions, when the decisions by the administration on creation of commissions for researching these points of deployment....[changes thought] we have to determine the costs, a commission convened and we determined the deployment points. These decrees fell into the hands of journalists who pictured it as if the administration had decided to build atomic stations and was conducting talks behind the people's backs. I think that I have answered the first question very clearly.

I would also like to tell the residents of Khabarovsk that the Ministry of Fuel and Energy and the Ministry of Atomic Energy have developed a major energy program which examines the question of surviving the next winter in terms of fuel availability. Both the Kray Energy Commission—it will convene tomorrow—and Comrade Matveyev, deputy head of administration who manages the energy issue, are very worried about this. This program is to be approved by the Khabarovsk Kray Soviet. But this does not mean that the program has been accepted and will be financed. A governmental decree is necessary to allow financing. This program outlines where to find the fuel and how to complete building sites under construction today, such as our heat and electric power plant, which has immediate ramifications. However, we do not know what to do in the energy consumption field in the next three or five years. [Words indistinct] spoke saying: What do we need excess energy for? But the fact that we are building a lot of new housing units and that we electrify villages and railroads and so on is not taken into account. So, whether we want it or not, the energy consumption level grows by 2, 3, or 4 percent every year, and this is in spite of the fact that we do not develop the industry, but only wish to live a little better. The Bureyskiy Rayon electric power plant alone will not solve the problem, we need a whole complex of electrical power stations. What is more, the Bureyskiy Rayon power station is located on the territory of Amur Oblast, and since the Amur Oblast is developing very rapidly, it will probably swallow all the produced energy itself. We cannot depend on hand-outs, we must look for our own options.

I think that if gas deposits are found in Bureyskiy Rayon, we might change direction, but meanwhile we have no fuel of our own except Ural coal, which is being mined although it is not really profitable. This program envisages development of energy sources based on nuclear fuel. Yakutiya will participate in this program, and has agreed to finance it from central, republic budgetary sources. The Maritime Kray administration has adopted a decision on, quote, "the possibility of building an underground electrical power station," unquote.

[Kolosova] The so-called smaller electrical power stations?

[Lebedenko] No, they are asking for average power output. We plan to go there to coordinate the governmental decrees with the Maritime Kray. The construction of an atomic power station has also begun in Magadan Oblast. I think that a major session of the Kray Soviet will decide whether to build uranium-fueled facilities in Khabarovsk Kray, or not. Participation of a public and ecological committee, and a study of all experts' opinions will also be necessary.

Today, we have no alternative program. Those who call for a cessation of planning have neither the moral nor the legal right to renounce a program without offering an alternative. I am not against an alternative plan, it is just that I do not see one.

[Kolosova] I understand that you see the building of an atomic power station as the only solution to the critical fuel situation in our Kray.

[Lebedenko] I would not concentrate on the power station alone, but also on uranium fuel. This question should be studied and decided upon. Today, the only way to solve the ecological problems is the replacement of coal powered stations with uranium powered ones.

Therefore, we cannot refuse. We cannot do without a uranium fueled station because we do not have the technological and the economic basis. When we have it, we will have to make all the information available to people through radio, television, and newspapers, and present all the facts to them: Whether it is dangerous or safe, profitable or not, and its ecological impact. I think that the populace will understand that this is one of the best variants of those available today, and the only way toward the development of Khabarovsk Kray. [End recording]

I would like to add the following to the material we have just heard: The energy crisis is also deepening in Maritime Kray. Therefore, the building of an atomic power station is being considered. Today, plans for nuclear reactors most acceptable for our Kray are being discussed—either ship-mounted plants for producing electricity, or stationary ones, which have been tested at the Kurchatov Institute. In any case, the Kray Smaller Soviet gave the green light for the project locating atomic power stations underground. But, specialists think that more than a year will go by before construction actually starts.

'Threat' From Kaliningrad Region Considered

PM2506082992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 2

[Article by Captain Second Rank V. Gromak: "How Many Troops Does Professor Matochkin Have? Why Neighbors Started Talking About Threat From...Kaliningrad Oblast"]

[Text] When the Union hastily broke up it was no time for details. It then suddenly became obvious that Russian territory—Kaliningrad Oblast—was in a "remote" foreign country, cut off from Russia by a 300km tract of Lithuanian land. But this is not the only factor in the specifics of the situation. Besides the Kaliningrad inhabitants, the 11th Combined-Arms Army and the Baltic Fleet found themselves "a long way from Russia."

Official Vilnius was the first to speak about the "Kaliningrad beachhead." Back on 27 February in Monte Carlo Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis called Kaliningrad Oblast a "historical anachronism" and said that its location—that of a region cut off from the rest of Russia and crammed with troops—cannot continue for long and needs to be internationally monitored.

The question of Kaliningrad Oblast's future was also raised during Landsbergis' subsequent trip to France. Concerning it, Jolanta Jacevskiene, the delegation's official spokesman and the Lithuanian Supreme Council chairman's deputy adviser on international affairs, stated:

"Kaliningrad occupies a special place through its historical situation and ethnic composition. Germany, Poland, Russia, and Lithuania have an interest in it. Although only a very small percentage of Lithuanians are left there, historically Germans, Lithuanians, and Poles have lived there. From the legal viewpoint it is considered that Kaliningrad will soon belong to nobody, because the period of validity of the treaty signed by Stalin and Churchill ends in 1994. The idea that this region could be turned into a free demilitarized zone has already been floated repeatedly. But for the time being Kaliningrad is like a huge military base, which is senseless...."

The other neighbor is Poland, and it too has been looking very closely at Russia's amber region. Moreover, it seemed to me that this view has not always been objective. From the viewpoint of POLSKA ZBROJNA newspaper, which specializes in the "military threat from the East," the situation in Kaliningrad Oblast has developed in a threatening manner: "Former Soviet experts know everything about the Polish military machine, but our specialists know only as much about them as Moscow has permitted." Border security, the newspaper goes on, has deteriorated, and the situation in the "Kaliningrad enclave" is dangerously explosive. It is overpopulated even now, but units armed to the teeth continue to arrive with their families and belongings. Who knows, the newspaper asks, what can be expected of these deceived and disappointed people?

Several months ago Jan Parys, then Polish minister of national defense, spoke on the theme of "the Kaliningrad military threat," showing serious concern "in connection with the large concentration of the former USSR's troops in Kaliningrad Oblast." He stated that he saw no reason for the concentration of such a huge number of troops so near to Poland's borders, and called for a 50km zone with a reduced troop saturation level to be created on both sides of the border.

Although the former defense minister has since left his post, this statement of his has simply not been repudiated, although certain proposals are obviously worth considering. After all, judging from the results of President Lech Walesa's recent visit to Moscow, during which he advocated the widening and deepening of cooperation with Russia, Poland's position on many European problems coincides with ours. The Russian Federation is ready to cooperate. I think that Russia will hold talks and sort out for itself how many troops and what kind of troops it should have on its territory, including Kaliningrad Oblast.

But there is no getting away from the fact that the interests of our other neighbor—Lithuania—in this region extend a very long way. Support for the idea of a free economic zone, which incidentally originated in Kaliningrad itself, could quite probably turn out to be two-sided, while the uproar over the concentration of forces is a cunningly played card in the political game for "greater Lithuania."

Yes, Kaliningrad inhabitants are interested in forming a free economic zone. But why, one wonders, should this exclusively internal problem be discussed by officials of an adjacent state? And why are people outside Russia trying to dictate the options for solving its military problems? Professor Yuriy Matochkin, father of the free economic zone and chief of the Kaliningrad Oblast administration, has already repeatedly stated, notably to the Lithuanian side, that he is interested in the military's presence in the oblast.

As for the Stalin-Churchill treaty, there is complete and utter ignorance here. When he had the chance my colleague, Captain Third Rank Aleksandr Rozhnov, a journalist for the fleet newspaper STRAZH BALTIKI [Baltic Sentinel], inquired of Kazimieras Motieka, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, about the document of which Jacevskiene spoke. Mr. Motieka expressed extreme surprise at the reference to "a treaty." It seems that this political surprise event could be a "personal opinion" too, like the sensational statement by the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States that "the day will come when Kaliningrad Oblast could become part of Lithuania."

Yet is there a threat from Kaliningrad Oblast? The most incredible rumors are going around Europe. It is believed that the 11th Army contingent stationed in the oblast has increased severalfold through the addition of troops withdrawn from East Europe. While according to Western sources between 400,000 and 500,000 men are serving in the Baltic fleet.

But Lieutenant General Andrey Nikolayev, 11th Army commander, testifies that the grouping of forces which are part of the Army has considerably decreased of late. To call it large is to distort the truth. The situation is the same with the fleet's forces too. Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral Vladimir Yegorov has officially stated that 11,000 officers, around 11,000 warrant officers, and 30,000 sailors are serving in the Baltic Fleet, including the Baltic countries. Therefore the Western sources are overestimating the real figures by at least about eight times.

But on its own it is, of course, difficult for Kaliningrad to stand firm under the diplomatic and economic onslaught from its neighbors, which felt as though currently Moscow's arms do not always reach the problems of its westernmost oblast. To a certain extent this delusion was dispelled by parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, who said at a meeting with people's deputies and representatives of the oblast's industry and business circles:

"Kaliningrad has a great future. Somebody here said: 'It is a long way from Russia.' That is not true. This is Russia here. It is not important what people there say. What is important is the state's clear position and a general doctrine under which the oblast is Russian. Therefore not only our presence here is important. Kaliningrad's importance as a major port city and maritime fortress must be strengthened, developed, and extended. While the talks process must be more dynamically developed with our neighbors the Baltic countries, but in no way from those positions which enable them to suppose that we are somehow prepared to consign our interests to oblivion."

Yes, we do have interests here. And they can be secured by the presence of troops. That, incidentally, is how things are done throughout the world.

Essential Postscript

It is already obvious that the latest referendum in Lithuania, this time on the question of Russian troops' withdrawal from the republic's territory before the end of this year, was held under powerful propaganda pressure. And the remarkable thing is that the local mass media vigorously discussed not only the question on the voting papers but also "the problem of the presence" of Russian troops in Kaliningrad Oblast, which is called "Karaulyuchusskiy district." Who can tell whether this theme will predominate in official Vilnius' policy after the last Russian soldier has left Lithuanian soil?

Tatar Communist Conference Held in Kazan

LD1906091192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1444 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kazan—The second stage of the Communist Constituent Conference concluded in Kazan on June 17 with the recognition of the Republic of Tatarstan Communist Organisation (RTCO) as the sole heir to the Republican CPSU Organisation. The resolution further states: To advise all the new owners of party property that it (the property) will be returned to the lawful owner—RTCO in the final analysis. The conference resolved to start forming councils of workers and farmers on the spot with the aim in view of protecting state-owned property from privatisation and to prepare the formation of Trudovoy Tatarstan Republican Council.

The conference passed the resolution approving the expulsion of Mikhail Gorbachev from the Communist Party. At the same time the motion to expel from the party the secretaries of the former Republican CPSU Committee as well as the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet communist deputies for giving the first reading and passing the bourgeois constitution of the Tatar Republic was voted down. The chairman thought that these motions were untimely because, prior to October 1, the RTCO intended to call a new registration of the republic's communists and it will then become clear who are the real bolsheviks.

Observers point out that 5 times fewer delegates attended the second stage conference than the first stage, held in December 1991. The organizing bureau accounted for it by the fact that tickets for passenger inter-city routes have gone up sharply. The Mandate Committee reported that out of 113 delegates 7 were workers, 3 farmers, 74.3 per cent bureaucrats, with the rest being old-age pensioners.

It was stressed that the former party apparatchiki-functionaries were practically absent at the conference. The 40-year-old lieutenant-colonel, Aleksandr Saliy, who made the report and was subsequently appointed the first secretary of the RTCO, stated: Our administration is not only an enemy but a hypocrite. Being in the service of world imperialism, this administration of chaos is trying to destroy a great power in order to please 1 per cent of the population—speculators. As to the Tatar republican leaders, they, according to Saliy, first adhered to socialist orientation and then went in for the petty-bourgeois elements and, possibly, for the bourgeois ones, acquiring nationalist trends to boot.

According to the delegates, the salvation of the state lies in uniting all the left-wing forces under the guidance of a single Communist party. Yet, the delegates admitted that some covert support of RTCO ideas is there, but a mass movement into our ranks is not evident. An immediate rallying of the communist forces is indispensable now as after July 7—the session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court—reprisals will begin. Aleksandr Saliy suggested that they should try to turn the CPSU trial from the Nuremberg to the Leipzig one which was crowned with the victory of Georgiy Dimitrov over Hitler's henchmen.

A representative of the Russian Communist Workers' Party [RCWP] from Moscow greeted the Communists of Independent Tatarstan which has become a subject of international relations because the resolutions of Yeltsin's administration are invalid here. He supported the call for unity of all the Communist organisations of Russia and the USSR under the banner of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin but expressed doubts about uniting under the banner of Stalin. According to the Moscow representative, although it is common knowledge that Stalin wore a shabby trenchcoat and led an ascetic life he had some deviations from genuine Marxism. Replying to a question about Zhirinovskiy, the RCWP representative stated: he has a lot of positive features but he is too far from Marxism.

Tatar President Outlines Results of Western Tour

PM2406141992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent Dmitriy Mikhaylin article under the rubric "Following Events": "If We All Pull Together..."]

[Text] Kazan—A Republic of Tatarstan delegation headed by President Mintimer Shaymiyev has ended its working visit to Austria, Switzerland, the United States, and Canada.

At a news conference held on that event, M. Shaymiyev said that the aim of the trip was to seek new economic ties and to study the state structure of developed European and American countries. Leaders of Tatar industrial enterprises and departments and deputies from the republic's Supreme Soviet in the delegation met with leaders of major Western firms, bankers, U.S. congressmen, and UN representatives.

Agreements in principle were reached with General Motors—Tatarstan wants to assemble GM vehicles at the Yelabug auto plant. Canadian businessmen expressed agreement to participate in the extraction of Tatar heavy oil: The republic still has a lot of oil underground. In addition, there is an accord on direct supplies of Canadian wheat and on helping Tatarstan to produce such wheat and other agricultural crops.

The main result in the economic sphere, according to the president, is that in the near future Tatarstan can expect direct investments from major European and U.S. banks. It is planning on paying its creditors in finished output.

The first tangible results of this visit are the modernization of Kazan airport—it is planned to give the airport international status—and the development of modern communications systems.

In Mintimer Shaymiyev's opinion, Western businessmen will also be attracted to Tatarstan by its powerful economic potential, its advantageous location, and the stability of its political situation.

The republic is planning to set up a foreign economic department to expand and support its international ties in the near future.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Interviewed on Dagomys Talks Results

PM2406194592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Tsikora report: "Kravchuk: We Cannot Be Neutral While Russians and Ukrainians Are Being Killed in Dniester Region"]

[Text] Kiev—On his return to Kiev Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk gave his first interview to journalists on the talks in Dagomys with Russian President B. Yeltsin.

He called the meeting a "turning point in relations between Russia and Ukraine." Kravchuk stressed that this was the common opinion of both delegations. Explaining the meaning of "turning point," the president said that during the talks it had finally proved possible to "bring relations with Russia to an interstate level."

The Ukrainian president went on to draw journalists' attention to the fact that both states are aiming for bilateral relations which would "correspond to the two peoples' fundamental interests." Kravchuk cited the successful resolution of a number of economic problems as a first example.

As two great powers, Russia and Ukraine can and should influence not only the development of their own relations but also "processes taking place beyond their territories. This applies first and foremost to overcoming military conflicts under way near our borders." We cannot stand idly by [bezuchastnyy] while Ukrainians and Russians are being killed in the Dniester region, Kravchuk stressed.

The Ukrainian president also noted with satisfaction the "start of a new chapter in the resolution of the Black Sea Fleet problem."

Kravchuk Favors Dniester Becoming Autonomous

LD2506105292 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1533 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Excerpt] Kiev, 24 Jun—Ukraine supports the right of the Dniester area to be an autonomous republic as part of the Republic of Moldova. Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, stated this today at a news conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists, dedicated to the results of the Dagomys summit. Explaining the position of Ukraine in relation to the neighboring state, he said that he sees Moldova as a single unitary state. But there are over half a million Ukrainians living in the Dniester area, and Ukraine cannot remain unconcerned about what is happening near its borders. It believes: In the event of the Republic of Moldova unifying with Romania, the people of the Dniester area are entitled to decide their future on their own. In such a case Ukraine, as a UN member, could act as a guarantor in deciding the problem of the Dniester area in accordance with international norms.

At the Dagomys meeting Russia expressed its readiness to become a guarantor together with Ukraine. I will discuss the problem of the Dniester area in Istanbul on 25 June with the leaders of the Republic of Moldova, Russia, and Romania, Leonid Kravchuk stressed. [passage omitted]

Kravchuk Denies Report

LD2406202892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Ukrainian President Kravchuk has denied reports that he is in favor of the separation of the Dniester region from Moldova. At a news conference in Kiev, Leonid Kravchuk said that in reports for which ITAR-TASS served as the source [date not specified], his statements had been quoted incorrectly. Kravchuk added that sometimes errors are made deliberately. According to Kravchuk, he has always been in favor of the autonomy of the Dniester region, but within Moldova.

In reply as to whether he would oppose Moldova's unification with Romania, Kravchuk said that Moldova is entitled to decide its own destiny, and national minorities living in the Dniester region have just such a right.

Military Observers Leave Dniester Region

LD2406152792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Ukrainian military observers have left the Dniester region, Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk announced in Kiev. Having confirmed Ukraine's support for Moldova's territorial integrity, the deputy minister stressed that this does not mean that Kiev agrees with measures of force being taken in the Dniester region. Tarasyuk expressed the Ukrainian Government's concern about the fate of Dniester Ukrainians—who comprise 28 percent of the population of this region.

Rally Demands Stop to 'Genocide' in Moldova

LD2406182692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Jun 92

[S. Barabanov video report from Odessa; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The tragedy in Bendery has forced 30,000 inhabitants of the Dniester region to leave their homes. In the past 24 hours alone some 700 refugees have arrived in Odessa. That is only the number who have asked for assistance. Many are staying with friends and relatives. People have left as they are able—on foot, while being shelled, going as far as Tiraspol, or in goods wagons, not even being able to take a change of underwear. In Odessa they are being settled in boarding houses and camps. A girl who miraculously lived told us how her entire class perished from mortar shells during that terrible night, but was unable to speak in front of the camera. She was still wearing the clothes she was wearing for the night of the graduation ball.

A rally took place in Odessa. Those who took part in it requested the president and the parliament of Ukraine to take all measures to cut short genocide. They reserved the right to demand that the International Court call to account those who are to blame for the murder of civilian inhabitants of Moldova. [video shows reporter, refugees, rally]

Leaders Positively Assess Gaydar's Appointment

LD1706165192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0949 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—The majority of Ukrainian political leaders positively assess Yegor Gaydar's appointment head of the RF [Russian Federation] Government.

Vladimir Pilipchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Commission on Economic Reform, answering the PF [POSTFACTUM] question concerning Yegor Gaydar's appointment as head of Russian Government said: I positively assess Gaydar's appointment because I side with thinking persons, economist-reformers. Gaydar belongs precisely to such people.

Vadim Gatman, board chairman of the Ukrainian National Bank: This is a positive phenomenon. I am convinced that the course at market economy is conducted in Russia more vigorously than in Ukraine. Yeltsin made for his previous mistake by this appointment when he united for himself the posts of president and chairman of government.

Vladimir Kryzhanivskiy, Ukrainian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia: This is an absolutely normal step. Gaydar is most talented among Russian reformers. His appointment emphasizes Yeltsin's and his colleagues' striving not to deviate from reform course. This is a worthy guideline for Ukraine—the main reformer turned in premier.

Vladimir Filenko, secretary of the presidium of new Ukraine public movement: New accents are placed on what Russia wants. This step might be copied and by our President Kravchuk in Ukraine.

Ivan Drach, co-chairman of the popular Rukh of Ukraine: We should have also appointed chairman of government a 40-year-old Vice-Premier Vladimir Lanovoy, for example. And Gaydar is the embodiment of economic reform in Russia, therefore his appointment is a very good decision.

Adm Kasatonov Said To Infringe Legislation

PM1906154592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Tsikora report: "Admiral Kasatonov Has Problems Again"]

[Text] Kiev—The life of the commander of the Black Sea Fleet has again entered a period of problems. The first sign of them was a speech in the Ukrainian parliament by People's Deputy N. Porovskiy.

He said that, in accordance with a decision by the admiral, the building belonging to one of the military units was sold for dachas and a second one is being prepared for auction. The admiral also signed a document allowing one-third of the auxiliary fleet's ships to be leased to the "Tornado" small enterprise. What is more the contract has been composed in such a way that most of the profits will remain with this enterprise.

Further, a list of Adm. Kasatonov's infringements of Ukrainian legislation was presented to parliament, as represented by the commander's attempts to man the Black Sea Fleet with draftees from another state. N. Porovskiy said the new recruits were delivered in a "deceitful manner" on naval ships from the Russian port of Novorossiysk to the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

Russia Cooperates in Nuclear Power Engineering

LD1706211692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0138 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS Correspondent Anatoliy Kuznetsov]

[Text] Nikolayev, (south of Ukraine), 16 Jun (TASS)—At the request of the Yuzhno-Ukrainskaya AES the Russian Research Institute of Theoretical Physics and Automation has developed and set up at the station an installation to control the amount of isotope boron-10 in boric acid, used to regulate the power of the reactors. The invention was prompted by increased safety demands for the operation of nuclear power units.

Now the tens of tonnes of boric acid arriving at the station will have not only the traditional producer's certificate but also a confirmation of local experts about the additional check of the isotope boron-10 content. It is expected that all nuclear power stations in the Ukraine and Russia will be equipped with such analyzers.

At present the Yuzhno-Ukrainskaya AES cooperates with many institutes, safety committees, and enterprises from the CIS. Its cooperation is aimed at increasing the operational safety, the automation, and the protection of the environment and is based on 83 agreements worth millions of rubles.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Morocco

LD2406043292 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1507 GMT 23 Jun 92

["Ukraine and Morocco established diplomatic relations"—UKRINFORM headline]

[Text] United Nations [no date as received] [UKRINFORM]—A joint communique on this was signed on Monday [22 June] at the UN Headquarters in New York by Viktor Batyuk, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, and Ahmed Senoussi, permanent representative of Morocco to the United Nations.

The signing of today's communique with the Ukrainian ambassador is a great honor for me, Moroccan Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi said in a conversation with a UKRINFORM correspondent. We hope relations between our countries will develop and strengthen in the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding for the sake of preserving peace on the planet. We follow with great satisfaction the development of young states, among which Ukraine holds a worthy place.

Another event in the diplomatic recognition of Ukraine took place today. Nearly 80 countries have already established diplomatic relations with it and that process continues. It proves, stressed Viktor Batyuk, that Ukraine has confidently and surely entered the community of nations.

National Affairs

1993 Economic, Social Development Plan Noted

LD2406111592 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1609 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Kiev, 23 Jun (UKRINFORM)—A draft of the plan of economic and social development of Ukraine for 1993 was one of the important issues discussed at a meeting of the republic's Cabinet of Ministers, chaired by Ukrainian First Vice Premier Konstantin Masyk. The aim of Ukraine's economic development in 1993 is to end the crisis in the sphere of production and bring stability to it.

The main directions of the plan are to immediately provide the population with food and the economy with fuel and power resources, to accelerate the output of consumer goods by industry, and to take measures to liquidate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Considerable attention will be paid to the demonopolization of production, the denationalization and privatization of property, and to support for business undertakings.

At the same time, the state sector [gosudarstvennyy zakaz] remains one of the important levers for stabilizing the economy. According to calculations by specialists of the Ministry of Economy, the state sector's orders should take up 40-50 percent of the overall volume of the produce manufactured in 1993.

There was a heated discussion of the extremely difficult and crucial issue of the future of the Krivoy Rog oxidized ore unit, which has been under construction since 1985 on the basis of an agreement between the governments of the former USSR and the states of the former Council of Mutual Economic Aid. That unit is of great significance for the development of the Ukrainian metallurgical industry. At the present time, there are difficulties concerning the further financing of the works. It would cost far more to stop construction than to provide the means necessary to continue the project. Besides, tens of thousands of people would be unemployed. It was decided to continue the construction of the unit, and to obtain various estimates of sources of financing construction.

The session discussed the draft Ukrainian law on the status of war and labor veterans and the guarantees of their social protection. This document concerns the vital interests of more than 11 million citizens of the republic. The draft law envisages that certain privileges should be granted to those who worked in the rear front [tyl], those who were in concentration camps or ghettos, those who were forcibly deported to do forced labor, and to some other citizens, as well as to those who already enjoy these privileges.

Minister on Defense Enterprises' Privatization

LD2406161892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] More than half of the 700 defense enterprises of Ukraine can be privatized. This has been stated in an interview for the newspaper "PRAVDA UKRAINY" by Minister of Machine-Building, Military-Industrial Complex and Conversion Viktor Antonov. First and foremost these are radio engineering plants, enterprises of the foreign ministry (?or the) food industry, although such enterprises as Kiev Arsenal, Dnepropetrovsk (?Yuzhmash), in the opinion of the minister, must belong to the state if the Armed Forces of Ukraine are to be equipped by the republic's defense enterprises.

Committee Head Cited on Disarmament Issues

LD2306180892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] As was already reported, the 15 June 1992 Ukrainian president's decree created the National Committee of Ukraine on Disarmament Issues. The head of the committee, Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk, stressed in an interview to correspondents of Ukrainian radio, television, and press that providing reliable fulfillment of commitments in the sphere of disarmament which were inherited or are being taken on by Ukraine independently will considerably define its international reputation and the level of trust toward its military and political activity.

On the agenda are urgent questions on implementing the treaties on liquidation of medium- and short-range missiles, on reduction and restriction of strategic offensive weapons, and on the treaties on measures for strengthening trust in Europe. At the current session of the conference on disarmament, the working out of an international convention on the ban on chemical weapons is being completed. The signing of the convention may take place at the end of this year. Ukraine intends to become a participant.

Deputy Prime Minister on Agriculture Crisis

PM2206132192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Tsikora report: "Ukrainian Parliament Besieged by Pickets"]

[Text] Kiev—This is the third day that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has been surrounded by the militia and pickets. The pickets' main demands are for the resignation of V. Fokin's government and the early dissolution of the republic's Supreme Soviet.

The sharp rise in prices for dairy and meat products has really infuriated society. Representatives of labor collectives have demanded explanations from the government and parliament—why are prices rising out of control, families reduced to beggary, whole sectors of the economy on the brink of collapse, and cities in the grip of crime?

The tension which has developed within society has transmitted itself to many deputies. Vice Prime Minister V. Sytnik, who is responsible for the work of the republic's agroindustrial complex, was asked to give the session an explanation. The picture that he painted of the present-day crisis in Ukrainian agriculture shook everyone in the hall. Detailing the state of affairs, V. Sytnik cited the following figures: In the past five months Ukrainian stockraising caused the republic astronomical losses of 55.7 billion rubles [R], and the sale of output has inflicted upon the countryside losses of 52 kopeks for every ruble spent.

It was thought that releasing prices would help to rectify this abnormality in the economy. The state subsidy was removed from dairy produce. The Cabinet of Ministers decided to redirect the money thus saved to the republic's citizens on minimum incomes.

In practice, however, this entire operation to "get dairy produce into the market" resulted in milk prices rising to R8-R12 a liter. Meanwhile, wholesalers—trade enterprises and processors—are still buying milk from peasants at R5 a liter. Thus the peasant has received virtually no benefit from the rise in prices for his produce. The trade network and dairy produce processers have made money—and substantial amounts, too—from this "rip-off." This fact, a graphic illustration of the present-day standard of management in the agrarian sector, angered people's deputies most of all.

The discussion between the vice prime minister and deputies was not easy. They were "separated" by the bell announcing the end of the working day in parliament. But one general fact managed to filter through to the republic's radio and television. Doctor of Economic Sciences S. Doroguntsov, a deputy from Odessa, reported that according to figures at his disposal the release of dairy produce prices (and at the same time the "sly" price hike for meat, sausage, butter, and sugar) caused the Ukrainian population's living standard to fall by one-third in a single day.

Crimean Referendum Opponents Appeal to Deputies

OW2306164892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1440 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An appeal to all deputies of all levels and to the electorate by the committee trying to organize a congress "For Peace and Accord" of Crimenan deputies says that the policies of those calling for a referendum in the Crimea threatens to split the population of the peninsula into two irreconciliable groups. Those policies are "aimed at fanning ethnic strife" and may completely disrupt the Crimenan economy. The committee has held a meeting in Simferopol. In its appeal the committee adds that the Crimean separatism can further complicate the already tense relations between Ukraine and Russia.

The participants of the committee meeting have also appealed to the Crimean Supreme Soviet demanding not to hold an unconstitutional referendum and not to start games round electing a Crimean president. They expressed their support of the existing Crimean Republic as an autonomy of the Ukraine.

Rukh Issues Statement on Religious Situation

LD2206171292 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First
Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] We have been informed that a resolution was adopted yesterday at a meeting of the small council of Rukh on the religious situation in Ukraine. The resolution states that in the struggle which has erupted within the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Rukh unanimously condemns attempts to subordinate Ukrainian orthodoxy to the Russian patriarchy and will only support those priests and hierarchs of the church who support the principles of independence and autocephaly of the orthodox church from the Moscow patriarchy.

Rukh considers that the sharpening of the religious situation in Ukraine contributes to the unambiguity and inconsistency of state organs and officials with regard to the processes and events that are taking place in the orthodox church and interconfessional relations, to the inadequacy of legal regulation in religious life and control over its implementation, and to the aggravation of the religious situation in Ukraine.

Byelarus

Chairman Shushkevich Reviews Ties With Poland

PM2306103692 Wroclaw GAZETA ROBOTNICZA in Polish 13-14 Jun 92 p 6

["Excerpts" from DZIENNIK POJEZIERZA interview with Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Byelarusian Supreme Soviet, by correspondent Wincenty Pirjanowicz; place and date not given]

[Text] [Pirjanowicz] How do you assess cooperation between Byelarus and Poland? In your opinion, are there any factors that hamper our cooperation? Is it worth developing further, and, if so, in which fields? Please give us examples.

[Shushkevich] I believe that our relations with Poland—especially in the economic sphere—are developing correctly. However, we have a specific problem. Poland is, as it were, a gateway to the model of economy which we largely want to transplant onto our own soil. That is why it is essential that we urgently regulate all matters connected with border traffic (including the need to increase the number of border crossing points) in a rational and sensible way that would accommodate the requirements of international law and current trends in European integration. So far we have had tremendous difficulties with long lines of vehicles (especially heavy trucks) waiting at the border crossings—and we were not the only ones to blame. I hold no grudge against the Polish side, because we are also aware of how difficult it is to accommodate such a large volume of traffic. But it is evident that something should be done to normalize the situation.

[Pirjanowicz] Does this indicate that Byelarusian authorities are now planning to simplify the practical side of mutual contacts in the nearest future and to ease the traffic regulations concerning not only transport but also general human contacts? Are they, for example, considering replacing the present Russian border service apparatus with Byelarusian structures?

[Shushkevich] Our border service apparatus has already been thus replaced. However, you will appreciate that it is one thing to bring the relevant border services under your own jurisdiction and to issue them with appropriate instructions, and a different thing altogether to inspire these people with the spirit in which the replacement was made. After all, we have not actually physically replaced individual people. Any state border service calls for professionals. To date, the border crossing procedure has not been changed in any significant way. We have set up our own own border service structures. Its headquarters is in Minsk, not in Moscow.

All our borders are guarded and protected by our own people. Nevertheless, we do respect the joint agreement on external border protection signed by all CIS states. This means that a person who has arrived in Byelarus can travel further to Russia, Kazakhstan, and so on, without a visa....

[Pirjanowicz] Poland recently signed goodneighbor treaties with Ukraine and Russia. Is a parallel agreement envisaged between the Republic of Byelarus and Poland?

[Shushkevich] Yes. We would like to sign such an agreement not only for the sake of the associated pomp and ceremony, as happened in the past, but for very practical reasons. This is why we are still working on polishing a current draft version. I hope the agreement will be signed in the near future.

[Pirjanowicz] There are Poles living in Byelarus. How are they organized? In your opinion, is their presence helpful in Polish-Byelarusian contacts?

[Shushkevich] Ethnic Byelarusians in Poland should be treated just as we treat Poles in Byelarus: Then our mutual relations will be at their best. We do not support the idea of "Byelarusianization" of any traditionally Polish territories. On the other hand, we keep coming across the unfortunate concept of identifying Catholicism with "Polonization." We simply must not encourage or support such a policy nowadays. We must remember that a Byelarusian Catholic prays in Byelarusian, and no one should be allowed to prevent him from doing so. But the fact is that no priests coming to Byelarus from Poland [to work in local parishes] can speak Byelarusian. We do not intend to tolerate such a state of affairs, for it goes contrary to natural laws. The percentage of Poles living in Byelarus is rather small, and provided that the principles which I describe here are respected, we will be very grateful for priests coming to work in Byelarus. The only reservation is that, while they should indeed teach people to believe in God, they must not force everyone in Byelarus to pray in Polish. This poses questions which should be addressed both to relevant Polish authorities and to the Holy See. I believe that these questions are being considered.

A very wise and sensible attitude to these very questions has been demonstrated by Bishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, who speaks beautiful Byelarusian himself, and who is at present working to find a solution to this complex problem. Let me stress, however, that apart from these, I do not see any significant problems here.

I must reiterate what I said already: As soon as Byelarusians in Poland are granted the same rights as Poles enjoy in Byelarus, our mutual relations will settle into ideal friendship.

[Pirjanowicz] But surely not all Polish priests who come to Byelarus have no knowledge of your language. For example, I attended several services at the newly reopened church in Minsk, and the liturgy was conducted simultaneously in Polish and Byelarusian.

[Shushkevich] I should like to stress that I was involved in looking at the problems of the church in Byelarus for a long time, and on the whole the state of affairs is as I have presented it. But there are, of course, many positive gestures, too, and we encourage and support these. All the same, priests, who are held in high esteem here, should certainly make it clear to their faithful that Byelarus as an autonomous state should be none other than Byelarusian in character. Many clergymen fail to demonstrate such an attitude. They do not show any willingness to learn the Byelarusian language either. The instances which you cited were an exception. I know that priest in Minsk well. His knowledge of Byelarusian is moderate....

There is one more thing that I would like to point out. We experience similar problems with the Russian Orthodox church in our country. Its attitude, in turn, is that the faithful should pray in Russian.

[Pirjanowicz] This is surely the fault of the previous policy. To cite my own example, I graduated from a Byelarusian-language school, but even at this moment I speak with you in Russian, because I must admit that I would have found it much more difficult to conduct a conversation in Byelarusian.... Finally I would like to ask about your Polish connections. Your first name is clearly Polish. Your father and your son have Polish names, too.

[Shushkevich] As you will surely know, in Byelarus it was customary to choose either an Orthodox or a Catholic name for baptism. My family was very strongly influenced by my maternal grandmother, who was Catholic, and that is probably why I was given the name Stanislav. As for my father, he comes from a purely Orthodox family. However, since there were twelve children, it could not have been an easy task to find a name for each of them—especially since they were nearly all boys. At that time there were still fairly strong Polish influences in Byelarus, and no one saw anything wrong in giving a child a Polish name. Unfortunately, Polish cultural influences were heavily interlaced with political campaigning....

It is indeed true that you cannot find any gravestones inscribed in Byelarusian in our cemeteries, despite the fact that—let me repeat this—many centuries ago Byelarusian was the official language in our country. Why can you not find such inscriptions? Because since the middle of the past century (from 1853, to be precise) the use of Byelarusian language was officially forbidden by the tsarist authorities, whereas the use of Polish was permitted.

Hails Polish, Russian Relations

LD2406042192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Report by Yu. Ulyanov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Relations between Poland and the Republic of Byelarus in the short months of Byelarusian independence have taken on a special character, as one is used to saying. This is reflected in the especially ceremonial nature of the reception awarded Byelarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich during his first visit to the neighboring country and in his conversation with Polish President Lech Walesa. The signing of the bilateral treaty on good- neighborliness and friendly cooperation confirmed the full-bloodedness of relations between the two countries—an affirmation of future prospects. Some local observers think Byelarus has immediately set its course toward Europe via Poland, having turned away from Russia.

[Begin Shushkevich recording] Here all the talks that are conducted are being held from positions of the best attitudes toward Russia. Moreover, today the president of Poland repeatedly stressed this and all the representatives of Poland with whom we held talks repeatedly emphasized it. You see, it would be extremely unreasonable to try to somehow separate oneself from Russia, in general to shift contacts to here. [end recording] [video shows Shushkevich's reception in Poland with motorcade and inspection of troops, meeting with Walesa and signing of agreement, and interview with reporter]

Discusses Friendship Treaty

LD2406193692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Warsaw, June 24 ITAR-TASS—Byelarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich today had a meeting with members of the scholarly and cultural community of the ancient city of Krakow.

Addressing an audience at Krakow University, he expressed confidence that the treaty of good-neighbourly and friendly cooperation between Byelarus and Poland would facilitate the development of mutual relations in all fields.

The treaty signed in Warsaw on June 23 "lays down a firm and reliable groundwork for friendly coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries today and in the long term," he said.

As an instance of overcoming myths that emerged over decades and took deep root in mass mentality, Shushkevich recalled the results of the recent international conference in Warsaw, during which scholars from Byelarus, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine agreed to set up an inter-state commission to prepare textbooks on history of relations among these nations in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Russia To Fund Defense Ministry Enterprises

LD1906145692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Russia is to fund Byelarusian Defense Ministry enterprises. This agreement has been reached in the course of the visit to Minsk by a Russian Defense Ministry delegation headed by (Gennadiy Gitkin), deputy chief of the General Staff. According to an

INTERFAX report, more than 5.5 billion rubles have been earmarked for this purpose.

Shushkevich Interviewed on Constitution

OW2306175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview to the INTERFAX [IF] correspondent, Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich of Byelarus' Supreme Council labeled as absurd the idea of adopting by the parliament the draft elections statute put forth by the Byelarusian Popular Front. The organizers of the all-Byelarusian referendum, designed to ascertain the degree of popular confidence in the republic's government and parliament, have placed the adoption of this statute among the prerequisites for holding the plebiscite. In compliance with the logistics shared by the opposition leaders, should the Byelarusians deny the vote of confidence to the incumbent powers-that-be, new elections to the republic's supreme legislative body ought to be held without delay, and the newly-elected prime minister approved by it would form a new government.

CORRESPONDENT: Mr. Shushkevich, how do you assess the initiative displayed by the opposition as regards the adoption of a new elections statute?

SHUSHKEVICH: I am convinced that at present, Byelarus' principal political objective should be the adoption of a new constitution. The new elections statute, in my opinion, should be built on the basis of its provisions. We are now completing the work on the draft constitution of independent Byelarus. The draft has already been tested in parliamentary commissions and committees. It was analyzed by the leading specialists in international law—the experts of the European parliament. We have taken into account all of the suggestions and remarks made by the international experts. This goes to show that from the perspective of international law our constitution is flawless. Our new elections statute should be equally irreproachable. We have to admit that the previous elections statute was not unbiased and most of its provisions were imposed by the old system. It goes without saying that we need new democratic legislation. I am sure that the opposition leaders, who are relying on their experts for working out their own variant of the elections statute, are not likely to come up with the document which would be flawless from the perspective of international law. We, however, can achieve this result, since we again intend to capitalize on the assistance provided by the European parliament specialists. The persons involved in working on the document on the part of the oppositions are not professionals. They are just enthusiasts and amateurs. I have the impression that the opposition leaders do not want to accept the realities, therefore they go out of the way trying to pass their draft law through all the parliamentary procedures. It's nothing other than playing politics.

CORRESPONDENT: Do you suggest that the referendum will be conducted only after the new constitution is adopted?

SHUSHKEVICH: I am not professing this, but I would regard such a development as quite logical. At the same time, we cannot disregard the will of the people (over 400,000 people who have subscribed to holding a referendum—IF). In any case, the new elections statute should be adopted by the parliament in compliance with the constitution. Following that, we will have every right to speak of a new election campaign. The Supreme Council has no intentions to pursue the policy of procrastinations. We are now working on the elections statute which will fully comply with the provisions of our new constitution. What would be the benefit of the government resignation, should it take place? For one thing, the incumbent Presidium of the Supreme Council and its deputies are certainly acting big, not looking for any formal pretexts to prohibit the referendum. There is a sufficient number of formal catches which could be played on for banning the referendum. Even if the plebiscite's results reveal popular mistrust of the Supreme Council and the government, they still may remain in office. Take a careful look at the Byelarusian Law on Referendum. It reads that it is the prerogative of the parliament to determine the nature of referenda—consultative or mandatory.

CORRESPONDENT: Suppose, the Supreme Council is forced to resign. What are you in particular going to do if it happens?

SHUSHKEVICH: Every politician has to be prepared that someone would come to replace him. I have a good profession. I am a physicist, and frankly speaking, I am missing my previous work. Naturally, my involvement with politics had to reflect on my qualifications as a physicist, and I fully realize this. To teach students is a highly responsible occupation. Still, I hope that I would be able to return to teaching if need be. I believe there are no professional politicians in our society yet. In most cases, policy is made by the persons who are lacking professionalism. I am one of them. It seems that the ambitions of many politicians are a lot higher than their qualifications for the offices they are holding...

We will continue publishing this exclusive interview given by the head of the Byelarusian parliament in the June 24 issue of the "Presidential Bulletin".

Moldova

Separatists Reportedly Use 'Toxic Substances'

AU2406200692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1842 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau (ROMPRES) 24/6/1992—According to a press release of the Foreign Ministry Press Office in the Republic of Moldova quoted by Radio Chisinau, the night of June 23 to 24 was pretty calm in Tighina

[Bendery] but the situation keeps tense. Following the attacks on the police building, nearly 200 guardsmen died in the last two days.

On June 24, the separatists set an oil factory on fire and hindered firemen to fulfill their duty.

Robbery and molestation of people go on, and so do thefts from shops and homes, the lawbreakers being Cossacks and their accomplices.

For several days heavy forces and military technique have been amassed in the area nearby the bridge crossing the Dniester. [sentence as received]

A news item sent from Causeni [Kaushany] by MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent informs about the attack on a Moldovan defence unit by guardsmen who threw all over toxic substances owing to which 20 persons have acute smarting pain, dizziness and a heavy taste of ammonia. A representative of the medical-epidemiological station in the area has not excluded the possibility for the use of toxic substances.

Military Council on Moldovan Overflights

LD2406182192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1647 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Jun—"The anti-aircraft defense means of the 14th Combined Arms Guards Army will not allow peaceful facilities and military garrisons in Bendery and Tiraspol to be attacked by Moldovan airborne forces," stresses an appeal of the Army Military Council to the heads and peoples of the CIS states adopted today. The document was given to ITAR-TASS by telephone by Colonel Aleksandr Baranov, deputy commander of the Army in charge of personnel.

Intensive flights undertaken by Moldovan aviation over Bendery on 24 June as well as on previous days, the appeal says, leave no doubt concerning the systematic and purposeful reconnaissance of targets and preparations for a massed use of aviation, which will increase the number of already numerous victims. All flights have been registered by the Army's anti-aircraft defense means, which completely refutes statements made by the Moldovan Ministry of National Defense, which say that aviation is not used in the Dniester region conflict.

[Paris AFP in English at 1735 GMT on 24 June reports: "The Russian Army claimed Wednesday [24 June] that Romanian and Moldovan military aircraft were making 'intensive' over-flights in the conflict zone in east Moldova.

["In a statement released here, the military council of the Russian 14th Army said its anti-aircraft batteries had counted 30 overflights of planes based at Markulech near Chisinau 'and of 10 planes coming from Romania' since Monday.

["The flights were being made for intelligence-gathering purposes in 'preparation of a massive use of Moldovan air forces' in the conflict with Slav separatists in the east of the republic, the military council said."]

14th Army Reportedly Downs 2 Moldovan Aircraft

OW2506103592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press center of the Dniester government, last night planes of the Moldovan National Army, including supposedly a MiG-29, and helicopters attempted to fly over Bendery, Parkany, and Tiraspol. The air defence of the 14th Russian Army used Shilka and Osa anti-aircraft rockets. Two of the aircraft are believed to have been shot down, the report of the press center says.

The Military Council of the 14th Army has announced that during the past three days the Moldovan and Romanian Air Forces have been overly active in the conflict zone. The Army Air Defence registered the flights of up to 30 aircraft in the direction of Markuleshtiy airport and up 10 aircaft from the direction of Romania. The military council does not doubt that the flights are part of a planned and purposeful reconnaissance of targets and preparations for large-scale use of the Moldovan Air Force in the conflict zone.

Meanwhile, the Moldovan Interior Ministry has informed IF [INTERFAX] that last night Dniester guards attacked the city Police Department in Bendery. In the exchange of fire one armored personnel carrier of the guards was shot and two policemen were killed. The center of the town is controlled by the guards, while the Moldovan Army and police are in the outskirts of Bendery.

Government Bans Russian Publications

OW2406172392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan government Wednesday [24 June] banned the printing and distribution of the newspapers "PRAVDA" and "RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA" ("Working Tribune"). The government said these publications are spreading disinformation on the events in Moldova.

Romanian Military Hardware Arrives 24 Jun

LD2506103792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Tiraspol, June 25 TASS—Two Moldovam military helicopters came under fire near the village of Parkany in the break-away Dniester Republic of Moldova last night. According to reports, the helicopters carried subversion groups.

The Dniester Republic's intelligence said six Romanian Mi-24 helicopters and a convoy of armoured vehicles and several trucks with pontoons arrived in Kaushany last night.

Street shootouts continued in the city of Bendery throughout the night. "The damage from the war is heavy. The city has passed through a catastrophe. It will take several years to rebuild the city," Vyacheslav Kogut, head of the City Executive Council, said.

Kogut said 40 people were buried in the city over the past two days. Residents bury the dead next to their houses as there is no possibility to take them out of the city. Food arriving from Tiraspol is being handed out in the centre of the city, while 25,000 residents of the residential area Leninsky are using up their reserves as they receive neither bread nor milk after Moldovan units sealed off their district.

Troops, Equipment Concentrated in Dniester

OW2506155492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [25 June], a representative of the 14th army's command who preferred to remain anonymous, confirmed in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that last night Moldovan helicopters and planes made reconnaissance flights over Bendery, Tiraspol and the village of Parkany.

Earlier, the Dniester government's press center announced that the 14th army's anti-aircraft units used a Shilka anti-aircarft installation and Osa missiles to destroy 2 air targets. The military representative of the 14th army has neither confirmed nor denied these reports.

On June 24, the 14th army's Military Council circulated an appeal which says that 14th army's anti-aircarft facilities will prevent the Moldovan air force from attacking the civilian buildings and the garrisons in Bendery and Tiraspol.

Moscow's military sources informed IF on Thursday that last night 11 air targets, including 3 planes, flew over the Bendery and Tiraspol regions (Dniester republic) at an altitude of 6,000 meters.

The same sources report that there was no movement of the Moldovan national army and police in the Dubossary direction on Wednesday.

According to the Russian Defence Ministry, by the night June 24 Moldova had concentrated up to 12 motorized infantry battalions, 30 tanks, 91 armored personnel carriers, 4 BM-21 (Grad) launchers, and 84 artillery pieces and mortars in the Dubossary region. In the Bendry direction it had concentrated up to 8 battalions, 50 tanks, 80 armored vehicles, 8 BM-21 launchers and 50 artillery pieces and mortars.

Military observers do not rule out that the concentration of the troops and armored equipment points to the preparations for a new offensive on the Dniester region which may begin within the next few days.

Smirnov on Exclusion From Istanbul Talks

LD2506103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tiraspol, June 25 TASS—Although it was relatively quiet last night in Bendery, two people were killed in the city and Moldovan armed forces are concentrating in the vicinity, reliable sources told TASS on Thursday [25 June].

Late on Wednesday the last transformer of the Dubossary hydro-electric power station was damaged by shelling and oil is oozing into the Dniester.

Ways for a peaceful settlement in the Dniester region will be discussed by presidents of Russia, Moldova, Ukraine and Romania in Istanbul on Thursday, but the Dniester leadership is suprised it was not invited.

"From the very beginning we were surprised by the approach to solve the Dniester problem without (our) direct participation of in the four-party negotiations. We are surprised because if any of the conflicting sides is excluded from the process it will yield little result", according to Dniester President Igor Smirnov. "We shall have the same attitude to the Istanbul meeting if it discusses the Dniester problem (without us)", he stated, adding that he is personnaly surprised by the Romanian participation in the talks. "Russia and Ukraine—understandable, Moldova—the more so. But Romania?".

Moldovan President Mircea Snegur is of a different opinion. He believes in a positive solution of the Dniester problem in Istanbul, according to local mass media.

Smirnov Urges 14th Army, Ukrainian Involvement

OW2406172492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of the Dniester republic Igor Smirnov wants the immediate removal of Moldovan forces from the territory of his republic. This is a necessary condition for a dialogue on the political status of the Dniester region, Smirnov said Wednesday [24 June] in an exclusive interview with "INTERFAX".

Smirnov said the units of the 14th Army, and Ukrainian forces could become "a stabilizing factor in the Dniester region, at least to prevent genocide by the Moldovans and the death of people". The Dniester leader will permit the use of the 14th Army and the Ukrainian forces to separate the conflicting sides.

Concerning Thursday's meeting in Istanbul with Yeltsin, Kravchuk, Iliescu, and Snegur on ending the Dniester conflict, Smirnov expressed regrets that representatives from Tiraspol will not be able to participate. "This will obviously hurt the talks", he said. "At the same time, any meetings could give some impetus to the settlement of conflicts".

Smirnov said that the peacemaking activities of the foreign ministers from Russia, Ukraine, Romania, and Moldova "lost their significance" after the Bendery events in which hundreds were killed. He said that now the heads of states must work to resolve the conflict, "only this will bring some results". The Dniester republic insists in equality at the talks.

Smirnov confirmed the Dniester republic's aim for independence. Commenting on Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's proposal that the republic be granted the status of an autonomy within Moldova, the President said: "We consider this a step to determining our political status. As for the autonomy, we proposed this earlier but Chisinau rejected the idea. What kind of autonomy can we have now with hundreds of bodies?"

'Top Leadership' Reportedly Controls 14th Army

LD2506111792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0933 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau—The ambassador of Russia to Moldova [Vladimir Plechko] declared that he maintains constant communication with the commanders of the 14th Army and that the actions of this Army are controlled, as always, by the top leadership.

On June 24, in an interview to the NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA newspaper, belonging to the Republic's parliament, (?he said) that a Russian [words indistinct] General Yuriy Netkachev, the commander-in-chief of the 14th Army.

This delegation has a right to listen to the opinions of all the sides, to hold a conference in Tiraspol with the commanders of the 14th Army, where all its urgent problems are to be discussed.

Plechko expressed regret that the Moldovan side does not take part in the work of the delegation.

Ministries Accused of Economic Damage

LD2506125792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0933 GMT 25 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Chisinau—Moldova Defense Ministry accused ministries, departments and Chisinau commodity and raw materials exchange leaders of a damage which is being done to united and indivisible Moldova.

The declaration issued on June 24 by the press-center of Moldova Defense Ministry also says that supplies to the areas of Dniester of goods and raw materials deliver a blow to the economic structures of the republic, and exert an irreparable moral, material and political damage to united and indivisible Moldova.

Moldova Defense Ministry, among other things, stressed in its declaration that this damage is felt, first of all, at the front lines, as, in the opinion of the leaders of Moldova Defense Ministry, the gasoline which is sent daily from Chisinau bases to Dniester is used by separatists for refuelling of the armored personnel carriers of the guards, which are attacking and killing the defenders of united and indivisible Moldova.

According to the data received from well-informed sources in the Moldovan Interior Ministry. The investigation organs of the Moldovan Interior Ministry have established that only from the oil base of the village of Gidigich, according to the documents which had been found, recently nearly eight tons of gasoline A-76 were sent to Tiraspol. This gasoline was sold in Dniester for the price of 191 roubles for a ton. The Moldova Defense Ministry has accused the [words indistinct] the oil base of the village of Gigidich of pratronage of young socialist [word indistinct] which is difficult to explain, as while this is done, at the fields agricultural machinery stays idle because of the lack of gasoline, whereas defenders of integrity and independence of Moldova cannot somesometimes bring away from the battlefield their wounded comrades.

The Moldova Defense Ministry also declared about the information which has come to its possession that deficit [as received] medicaments from the state storehouses of Moldova are being transported to the city of Tiraspol, and underlined that there is a necessity of the immediate stopping of the secret aid to separatists.

Gagauz Threatens With 'Punitive' Sanctions

LD2506112692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0933 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau—According to the information received at Moldovan ministers' cabinet, Gagauz Republic threatens Moldova with economic and political punitive sanctions. PF [POSTFACTUM] was told at the ministers' cabinet of the Moldovan Republic that this is said in the declaration of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Gagauz Republic, which has expressed its protest against the actions of the Moldovan leadership which launched military actions in the city of Bendery in spite of the decision of the parliament of Moldova on [words indistinct].

The declaration stresses that Gagauz Republic is ready to render necessary assistance to Dniester in warding off the aggression from the side of Moldova.

20 Dniester Deputies Resign From Parliament

LD2506094192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Tiraspol, 25 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—About 20 people's deputies of Moldova, representing the Dniester region population in the republic parliament, have resigned. The others are holding meetings with their electorate, trying to resolve whether they should stay as deputies of the Moldovan parliament. In a conversation with journalists the former deputy Aleksandr Bulyachev said that parliament, especially the members of its presidium, take the greatest share of the blame for the tragedy happening on Moldovan soil. The supreme legislative body of Moldova has effectively done nothing to prevent the fratricidal war. The parliament is constantly ignoring the interests of ethnic minorities. As deputies we do not want to be held responsible in the eyes of the people at present or in the future, Aleksandr Bulychev said. History cannot only offer justifications but it can also mete out punishment. Those who want the war to continue will be punished sooner or later.

Dniester, 14th Army Blamed for Bloodshed

LD2306165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 23 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS—TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, June 23 TASS—A major of the Russian Army, taken prisoner in Bendery on June 18, accused the command of the Dniester Guardsmen and the 14th Russian Army of jointly plotting the bloodshed in the region which is going on for the fourth day.

The anonymous major who appeared on Tuesday [23 June] in a special Moldovan TV news programme, but did not show his face said he had been sent to Bendery as head of a group of three people to explode a local printing shop. The major added it was Colonel Podgornov, commander of the counterintelligence forces of Dniester Guardsmen who had given the order. However, it turned out the Moldovan Police had been informed about the terrorist act by an anonymous telephone call.

"I was sent to Bendery to provoke the seizure of our group by Moldovan Police thus giving grounds for an attack on a local police station", the major said.

Officials Pessimistic About End to Conflict

LD2406220192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The inhabitants of Dubossary, Bendery, and Grigoriopol, where there are dead and wounded and housing has been destroyed as a result of firing, have spent a worrying night. After the Bendery tragedy the Dniester Supreme Soviet announced that an independent state will be built. The latest events in Bendery make you wonder whether there are any sober heads at all in Chisinau, Karaman, vice premier of the Dniester Republic, told a RIA correspondent. Zavgorodniy, a Moldovan people's deputy and military commissar of the Ryshkan sector in the Moldovan capital, thinks that politicians on both sides of the Dniester are to blame for the situation that has taken shape, for not having applied well-timed restraint. This person, who experienced strict schooling in Afghanistan, knows about war first hand and asserts that if the trench warfare is not stopped now it could grow into a long drawn-out confllict.

CIS General Skeptical of Peaceful Solution

OW2406174992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the personnel committee of the Commonwealth United Armed Forces General Nikolay Stolyarov said that "it is probably not possible to find a peaceful solution to the Dniester conflict". Stolyarov came to this conclusion after his visit as part of a government delegation to the conflict zone. In an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] Stolyarov said that this was his fourth visit to the area recently. Each time the situation has changed for the worse. "Two months ago the idea of turning the area into a free economic zone was quite realistic", he said. "A month ago we could still consider a federation. That is no longer possible". The Dniester residents have repeatedly stated their intention to form an independent government.

Stolyarov was rather reserved concerning the possible outcome of the Istanbul talks. "There won't be any universal decisions there", he said.

Acts of Violence Reported from Dniester Region

AU2406173592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1622 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 24/6/1992—Radio Chisinau transmitted in its first news broadcast of June 24, on the basis of data from the Ministry of Defence, that mines were launched and repeating rifles fired continuously the previous night. The "ROMPRES" correspondent at Chisinau mentioned that the police had not breached the cease-fire but warned that, if firing went on, the policemen would be forced to fire back. Cosnita was under uneasy calm on Wednesday [24 June] night, although isolated firing was reported. Guardsmen's units were seen heading from Tighina towards Tiraspol.

Chisinau radio and television broadcast reports presented people in a state of despair, worried at what they had lived through, at a possible comeback of Cossacks and guardsmen, that kill everybody siding with Moldova, Russians included, showing no mercy. Eight- and nine-year-olds, pregnant women, old people were killed, houses were put fire to with people inside. An old villager said ears, noses, sexes were cut, eyes taken out. There were also reports on the very difficult situation the forces defending the land of Moldova had had for months on end, as well as scenes presented from hospitals where injured and mutilated people had been brought day in day out.

Rumors of Bendery Leaders' Departure Denied

LD2406182792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] According to the press center of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, rumors are being circulated that the leaders of Bendery have allegedly abandoned the town, leaving it to the mercy of fate. This is totally untrue. This is one of the devices used in order to undermine people's confidence and to do away with the legally elected power in this town situated in the Dniester region. In this connection, the Executive Committee of the town soviet regards these rumors as deliberate provocation.

Health Chief Claims Bendery Deaths Exaggerated

LD2406190492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 24 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 24 TASS—Eighty people were killed and 395 injured in the Bendery fighting over the past five days, a Moldovan Health Ministry official said over the radio. The victims were registered in hospitals and morgues, Deputy Minister of Public Health Logen Alekseyev added, and only on Moldovan side, he said. According to Alekseyev, the number of victims on the left bank of the Dniester "has been exaggerated" by Russian mass media. "Moldovan Red Cross did not see any dead bodies in the streets of Bendery", he said.

Dubossary Dam Threatens Widespread Flooding

LD2406225192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] According to NEGA agency reports, "Uragan" rocket launchers have been installed by the Moldovan Army on the heights which it has occupied near Bendery. The Moldovan side is threatening to use them if the Dniester guards do not leave Bendery, which it has liberated.

Dubossary, in the northern sector of the conflict zone, was subjected to mortar and artillery fire. Two people were killed. As a result of the incessant fire the Dubossary hydroelectric plant is completely disabled. As NEGA reports, citing experts, in a few days the hydroelectric plant's dam could fail to sustain the pressure of water. If the dam ruptures, not only would vast areas of the Dniester region be flooded but the water supply to Chisinau and other Moldovan cities would also be disrupted.

Social Democrats Favor Federal System

LD2506151392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] War is being waged in the Dniester republic and it will be very, very hard to implement accords. Every day the battles on the banks of the Dniester river reduce the chances of a compromise being reached. Today they are burying the dead in Bendery, they are burying them under the fire of Moldovan snipers. There can be no talk of a truce.

[Correspondent S. Cherkasov] The ITAR-TASS agency reported today that near the village of Parkany last night Dniester guards came under fire and two helicopters belonging to Moldova's military formations were shot down. Presumably the helicopter gunships were aiming to drop terrorist groups on the territory of the Dniester Republic.

The appeal of the Military Council of the Russian 14th Army to the heads of Commonwealth governments which has been circulated today noted that throughout the last three days there have been intensive flights by the aviation of the Moldovan and Romanian air forces.

In spite of Chisinau's official policy with regard to the Dniester Republic, constructive forces have already emerged in Moldovan society inclined to agree to a federal system for Moldova. This is first and foremost the Social Democratic Party headed by (Ioas Doi), who quite recently was an extremely close advisor of President Snegur. [video shows armed people in city and in countryside]

Rybnitsa Home Guard Seeks Dniester Recognition

LD2406230292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today the Rybnitsa Home Guard called on the CIS labor collectives and trade unions to bring pressure to bear on their parliamentarians. The home guard is demanding the recognition of the Dniester Republic.

Tajikistan

Nabiyev Decree Orders Surrender of Weapons

LD2506082592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0640 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By KHOVAR agency correspondent Nina Merezhnikova]

[Text] Dushanbe, 25 Jun (TASS)—President of Tajikistan Rakhmon Nabiyev has signed a decree on "measures to ensure the unconditional surrender of weapons and ammunition held by the population of the republic of Tajikistan without the relevant permit." The document says that, despite measures to normalize the situation, tension and confrontation between individual groups of the population is not slackening and the surrender and confiscation of weapons is proceeding very slowly and and in a disorganized manner.

The president has instructed the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Committee of National Security, and the Defense Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan, in coordination with the Procurator's Office, to "create regular operational combat groups for disarming illicit armed groups and criminal gangs and also individual persons." The groups are provided with armored equipment, motor and air transport, and they are given the right to inspect not only facilities of industrial designation and administrative buildings, but also residential premises, and in the event of coming up against armed resistance they are permitted to use special means and firearms to shoot to kill.

General Blames President for Arms Distribution

LD2506081492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0007 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Yesterday the views of Major General Farukh Niyazov were published by the KHOVAR information center. The general wrote that the Tajik Supreme Soviet Presidium has not clearly and correctly evaluated the events of May in Dushanbe. He said he did not distribute weapons as his own decision but in accordance with the decree of the president. It was stated in the third article of the presidential decree of 1 May 1992 that the Defense Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Military Commissariat of the republic should provide the special battalion with troops, hardware, and weapons.

Decree Relieves Kurgan-Tyube Official of Duty

LD2106034792 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] In accordance with a decree of President Rakhman Nabiyev, do to a transfer to another job, A. Akhmadov has been relieved of his post as chairman of the Executive Committee of the peoples' deputies of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast.

Official Appointed

LD2406185992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0007 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Yesterday a presidential decree was adopted according to which Kurbonov Nurali Khaidarovich is appointed acting chairman of the Executive Committee of the peoples' deputies of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast.

Further on Supreme Soviet Presidium Statement

PM2506142192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Karpov report: "Tajik President Facing Choice"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The power crisis in Tajikistan is deepening. Consequently the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium has been forced to issue an official statement addressed to President R. Nabiyev.

The document notes with alarm that political opposition has developed into armed confrontation and that society is split. There has been a breakdown in the mechanisms of administration and horizontal and vertical economic ties both within the republic and with other states. The population exodus from Tajikistan has increased sharply. An imbalance has occurred between global social product and national income.

Aware that events are developing rapidly toward disaster, the Supreme Soviet Presidium is seeking to do everything it can to avert civil war, resolve sociopolitical problems by peaceful means, and preserve a unified, independent, democratic state of Tajikistan.

Nevertheless, these efforts have not yielded results. The republic continues to slide toward the danger point of disintegration, internecine strife, and feuds. The impression is being created, the statement stresses, that the president is passive and indecisive in resolving urgent and vitally important problems. The Supreme Soviet Presidium and broad strata of the population still do not understand the stance taken by President Nabiyev during the tragic events in May and his decrees from that time are marked by extreme inconsistency.

The time has now come, the statement says, when the authorities must take precise, vigorous actions. The republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium demands that the president ensure the unconditional fulfillment of government decisions by organs of state power at all levels and call strictly to account those leaders who deviate from that; that weapons be confiscated immediately from illegal formations and from individuals; and that the law enforcement agencies unswervingly observe the laws on the protection of citizens' rights, honor, and dignity...

If these demands are not met, the Supreme Soviet Presidium will be forced to convene a session of parliament in the next few days where it will announce its resignation en masse and will also present for deputies' examination the question of the expediency of presidential rule in the republic.

Officers' Assembly Reacts to Presidium Statement

LD2506104592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0805 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By TIA "Khovar" correspondent Viktor Kozlov—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 25 Jun (TASS)—The 22 June statement by the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Presidium on the republic assuming immediate jurisdiction over units and military formations located on its territory will deprive the republic of the last elements of stability and will lead to civil war. This is stated in a decision of the Officers' Assembly of the formations stationed in Tajikistan, which was circulated here today.

The statement by the parliament's Presidium is called ill-considered, unfounded, and not corresponding to the interests of the people of Tajikistan. The Officers' Assembly has decreed that the armaments, military equipment, and military property of the units and formations are regarded as the property of Russia.

The document stresses that in the event of a further escalation of the internal political situation in the republic and continuation of provocations against army bases, the military will take steps to protect their own interests and those of civilians.

The decision of the Officers' Assembly also states that if these demands are ignored, the Officer Corps reserves the right to make its own decisions and to notify the heads of the CIS member-states about them.

Foreign Ministry Views Clashes, Situation

OW1906191792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, the Tajik government, chairmen of Political Parties and Muslim leaders held a meeting to discuss the social and political situation in the republic. "We have developed a number of measures to stabilize the situation in the republic", an official report says.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry told IF [INTERFAX] that the former president's guardsmen attacked a district police department in the town of Pyandzh of the Kulyab region (southern Tajikistan) Thursday [25 June] disarming policemen and confiscating guns and ammunition.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry also said they have information about a plan to seize the regional department of internal affairs in the town of Kofirnigon.

Servicemen in the Dushanbe garrison told INTERFAX that they remain neutral and do not intervene in domestic conflicts. However, they are the subject of frequent attacks by both the President's guardsmen and opposition forces. This week the President's guardsmen fired on the local garrison in Kurgan-Tyube.

Decree on Foreign Economic Activity Issued

LD2206111292 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] With the aim of promoting foreign economic activity, attracting foreign investment, increasing the import of modern hardware and technology, and saturating the market with consumer goods, the decree of President Rakhmon Nabiyev gives all economic structures, irrespective of the form of proporty registered on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, as a legal subject the right to participate in foreign economic activity. Limitations have been lifted on foreign economic activity layed down earlier for the participants of foreign economic contacts, including [word indistinct] activity, commodity exchange, barter exchange, and [word indistinct] deals.

Banking operations involving hard currency will be implemented on the basis of licenses issued by the National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Tajikistan Cabinet of Ministers (?has been given) the responsibility of confirming [word indistinct] goods and labor services, the export-import of which is licensed, payed, and the conditions for the norms of licensing and payment of exported and imported goods and labor services, bearing in mind competition or the auction sale of (?goods) and licenses. The full text of the decree will be published in the press.

'Experts' Criticize Draft Constitution

LD2506161592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1347 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe June 25 TASS—The influx of non-native population, above all Russian-speaking population from Tajikistan is growing daily. A number of independent experts believe that Tajikistan's new draft constitution now being debated contains a considerable number of instances of discrimination against the Russian-speaking population.

In this connection, the Coordination Council of Tajikistan's national communities issued an address to the republic's parliament, urging it to abrogate or revise a number of provisions that seal legally the unequal position of ethnic groups.

Ignoring human rights and rights of national communities the draft constitution lays the groundwork for dangerous instability in future, says the address. Recognition of dual citizenship will be beneficial not only for non-Tajik population but also for thousands of Tajiks living in other CIS countries, the address says. The freedom of the choice of citizenship and preservation of dual citizenship are in keeping with the universal declaration of human rights, the Helsinki accords and the Parisian charter of political and civil rights and liberties, the address says.

The authors of the address believe that one-chamber parliament does not reflect the interests of the republic's multi-ethnic population.

Recognition of the Uzbek and Russian languages as working languages of official institutions would be a guarantee of equality, as these languages are used by over 40 per cent of the republic's population. The address has been signed by leaders of the Russian, Armenian, Georgian, Jewish, Ossetian, Tatar-Bashkir, Uzbek and other ethnic communities of Tajikistan.

Armenia

Supreme Soviet Meets on Nagorno-Karabakh

NC2406212092 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Excerpts] At the start of the Armenian Supreme Soviet session today, the deputies observed a minute of silence in memory of Gagik Galstyan and [name indistinct] [words indistinct], who were killed during the battles in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon and nearby regions. [passage omitted]

The parliament then began debates on draft resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. As reported, yesterday seven parties in the parliament and the Armenian Pannational Movement put forward two drafts on the problem. Today, three other drafts were presented to the parliament by Deputies Seyran Bagdasaryan, Rafayel Papayan, and Ashot Bleyan. [passage omitted on speeches made by the three deputies]

None of the draft resolutions received enough votes. [words indistinct] After a recess the parliament resumed its deliberations, but no decision was (?adopted). The session will continue its deliberations Monday.

Opposition Party Blames Government for Defeat

OW2406213392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The defeat of Armenians in the Shaumyanov region of Karabakh is the result of the current policy of the Armenian government, represented by the Armenian national movement headed by Levon Ter-Petrosyan, a member of the "Dashnaktsutyun" opposition party Levon Shirinyan told "IF" [INTERFAX].

Shirinyan said the Armenian National Movement never found an acceptable solution to the Karabakh problem, limiting itself to demands for the cultural autonomy of Karabakh within Azerbaijan in exchange for "some guarantee of its existence in this capacity".

Revolutionary Party Pickets Radio Building

PM2406132992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Armenian Radio Also Under Siege"]

[Text] Yerevan—A picketing of the Armenian Radio building has begun on the initiative of the Armenian Revolutionary Party "Dashnaktsutyun," which is in opposition to the authorities.

As the pickets state, political censorship is being practiced in Armenia's television and radio. The action's participants are demanding that the broadcast of truthful and unbiased news about events in Nagorno-Karabakh be guaranteed, the ban on alternative programs be lifted, airtime be given to all political movements and parties, and that the chief of the Armenian State Administration for Television and Radio resign.

President Orders Aid to Soldiers' Families

OW2506104692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0853 GMT 25 Jun 92

[From the 24 June "Presidential Bulletin" No. 101 "prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin" and "edited by Boris Grishchenko"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan issued a decree taking effect on July 1 for financial aid to the dependants of servicemen killed in action while defending Armenian borders and in Nagorno-Karabakh. It provides for a lump sum of ruble 100,000 to be paid for the loss of the breadwinner, and from ruble 30,000 to ruble 50,000 to disabled servicemen. The decree also provides for a wide range of social benefits and medical care.

The government was given 15 days in which to produce a mechanism for implementing the paper.

Presidential Edict Addresses Internal Troops

LD2506130192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1203 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Yerevan—The service in the internal troops of Armenia will be equated with the service in the republican armed forces.

The edict by the President of the Republic of Armenia Levon Ter- Petrosyan on the creation of the internal troops (IT) within the framework of the republican Ministry of the Interior, published in the republican mass media on June 25, further says that the IT of the Armenian Ministry of the Interior will guard public order and the special-purpose projects, provide the security of cargo shipments and communications system and carry out rescue operations in an event of a natural calamity. All the types of activities of the Armenian Ministry of the Interior will be financed from the republican budget, the edict emphasizes.

Russians Reportedly Supply Azeris With Arms

OW2506103992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press center of the Armenian Defence Ministry, the command of the Russian Army stationed in Azerbaijan has delivered to the Azeri armed forces new arms, ammunition and vehicles, including 60 latest tanks, 70 armored personnel carriers, 70 armored combat vehicles and 12 Grad rocket installations.

However, Yerevan has not issued any official statement on the subject.

Further Reportage on Fighting, Statements

NC2406164292 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry reported that fierce battles raged in Karabakh's Mardakertskiy Rayon yesterday at 1100. Using superior forces, the enemy launched an attack all along the border with up to 30 armored cars, three BM-21 Grad launchers, one SU-25 attack plane, six MI-24 military helicopters, and three infantry companies of 1,500 troops. The main thrust of the attack was in the direction of Leninavan, Karmiravan, and Madagis.

The enemy managed to break through our defenses at the Leninavan-Karmiravan-Kadzharan line and at 1800 it reached the approaches of Mardakert, some 7-10 km from the city. The enemy also achieved some success near Madagis.

The Armenian self-defense organizations of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] regrouped their forces and halted the enemy's advance near the dam on the bank of the Tartar River. The enemy's attacking forces were forced back to their original positions, suffering enormous material and human losses during the battle. One T-72 tank and two infantry vehicles were destroyed; three vehicles were captured. Sixteen Armenian freedom fighters died heroically and 16 others were injured during the battles.

Eight shells were fired at Egelu in Gadrutskiy Rayon, killing three residents and injuring others.

Moving out of Myurishen and Artur villages in Martuninskiy Rayon this morning, the NKR Self-Defense Forces carried out attacks to destroy important military positions in Agdamskiy Rayon. At 1100 they managed to enter Agdal in Agdamskiy Rayon. The enemy is bringing in reinforcements. Our fighters are trying to consolidate the positions they occupied.

Fierce fighting is also going in near Nakhichevanik.

The border areas are relatively calm.

The Defense Ministry also informed us that Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan met today with Russian Ambassador to Armenia Stupishin at the Defense Ministry The commander of Russia's 7th Army, Major General Fedor Reut, also took part in the meeting. The men discussed the military-political situation that has emerged as a result of Azerbaijan's latest large-scale aggression against the NKR and its massing of large military force near Armenia's borders.

The Russian ambassador understood the defense minister's view that the military balance should be restored to prevent further problems and to secure stability in the region The ambassador promised to raise this issue before the Russian leadership.

'Calm' Reported

NC2406193092 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Certain sectors of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border have been relatively calm for the last few days. The intensity of the shelling has subsided some. The situation, however, remains tense and explosive. The presence of the border guards is preventing unpleasant actions from happening.

Even during this deceptive general lull in fighting, hot spots keep flaring up. One such spot is Sisianskiy Rayon's border. Shagat was hit with artillery shells in the morning of 24 June. The village was not damaged but two residents were injured.

The lull was disrupted in Kapanskiy Rayon as well. Shehit and (Geganut) were fired on. Sirashen and Nerkin-Hank were hit with artillery shells early today. Khndzorut and Bartsruni in Vaykskiy Rayon were also hit with artillery shells.

Thanks to their determination and diplomatic ability, the people of Vardenisskiy Rayon managed to obtain the release of the animal breeders [word indistinct] taken hostage by Azerbaijanis two days ago. They also recovered the stolen animals. Talks are now ongoing to eliminate the situation that is disrupting the work at the gold mines.

The situation is restless in Krasnoselskiy Rayon. For the last few days, sporadic fire has been coming from the opposite side. The people of Artsvashen are in high spirits and the village's young men have joined the regular detachments in guarding the village.

The situation is tense in Megrinskiy Rayon. The Azerbaijanis are continuing to mass military forces on both sides of the rayon. During the recent shelling, the new bridge was endangered; however, the shells fell far from the bridge, a number of them exploding on the Iranian side of the border. Iran has protested the incident.

The lull lasted four days in Idzhevanskiy Rayon. The Azerbaijanis have again started shelling the road linking (Berdapet) to Sarigyug.

The military and economic situation in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon is grave. The Azerbaijani fire is constant all along the border, and they have begun shelling [name indistinct], Voskepar, and (Voskevan). The region is facing difficulties in resettling and caring for the population that has evacuated the border villages. Foodstuffs are difficult to obtain. Local authorities are organizing health care as best they can.

The Tavushskiy Rayon Soviet Executive Committee informed us that for the last few days the intensive firing has subsided. Some periodic fire can be heard at night.

Mardakert Seizure Denied

LD2506095992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Yerevan—The news that Mardakert Rayon center had been seized by the Azerbaijani Army was refuted today by Boris Arushanyan, first deputy prime minister of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. In a conversation with a SNARK correspondent, he reported that about 10 villages of Nagorno-Karabakh's Askeranskiy and Mardakertskiy Rayons are in the hands of the Azerbaijanis. However, Arushanyan added, dogged fighting is going on to liberate them.

'Great Alarm' Caused

PM2506094192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Jun 92 p 1

[V. Aloyan report: "Battles for the Iranian Border"]

[Text] The situation of the Armenian republic's remotest rayon—Megrinskiy Rayon—is causing the greatest alarm in Yerevan today. The Armenian Foreign Ministry press center reports that the Armenian Army is amassing artillery, armored equipment, and tanks along the rayon's border. Megrinskiy Rayon is the only district of Armenia that borders on Iran. At the same time it separates Azerbaijan from Nakhichevan by means of a 20km corridor. And if the Azerbaijanis manage to seize Megri, they will at once deprive Armenia of a border with Iran.

Yesterday evening several dozen artillery shells were fired at Megri from Nakhichevan.

Diplomatic Ties Set Up With South Africa

OW2506102792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0853 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government press service says the South African ambassador in Moscow, Garrit Olivie, held a meeting on Tuesday [23 June] with vice-president Gagik Arutyunyan, who is also Armenian prime minister. IF [INTERFAX] Note: Olivie arrived in Yerevan to take part in the formal ceremony of exchanging notes on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Armenian side was represented by deputy foreign minister Arman Navasardyan.

The issues of bilateral cooperation and economic contacts dominated the agenda. Arutyunyan singled out tourism, health care, construction, non-ferrous metallurgy and mining as the possible areas of cooperation between Armenia and South Africa.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Issues Statement on Borders

NC2406212592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 Jun 92

["Text" of a statement by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry from Baku; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The mass media has reported the lie the Armenian [word indistinct] has fabricated that the Azerbaijani Armed Forces are preparing to cross Armenia's border near Megrinskiy Rayon to establish a corridor between Azerbaijan and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]. We believe it is necessary to point out that regardless of the blockading of the NAR and the savage eviction of 200,000 Azerbaijanis from their historic lands in Armenia, including Megrinskiy Rayon, the Azerbaijani Government—complying with the main principles and norms of international law, which prevent the violation of borders, obstruct territorial changes, and call for the avoidance of aggression—will, under no circumstances, allow Azerbaijani military units to cross into the neighboring republic's territory. Armenia, on the other hand, has occupied parts of Azerbaijani territory in Lachinskiy and Kazakhskiy Rayons and the NAR.

Regardless of the fact that the Armenian Armed Forces have penetrated into Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy and Ordubadskiy Rayons from Megrinskiy Rayon several times and forced us to take retaliatory measures, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, which are waging a war of liberation to retake the Azerbaijani territories occupied by the enemy, have not violated the neighboring republic's state borders.

Situation Along Border, Other Areas Updated

NC2406204792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry disclosed the following today:

The removal of the enemy units from the Yukhary Karabakh region is continuing. In spite of the strong enemy resistance, Azerbaijani Armed Forces units in Karabakh are holding superior positions, as has been the case in the past. Many enemy troops were [words indistinct] in the combat operations that took place last night and today. Our fighters are maintaining their operations near Agdere Rayon. The armed Armenian formations in the area known as Sovkhoz No. 3 were completely destroyed today. Violent clashes currently are taking place near Agdere. Our fighters are breaking the enemy resistance and advancing.

The situation in [name indistinct] and Kedabek Rayons remains tense. Enemy units massed near Agdam Rayon [words indistinct]. Armed Armenian groups in Askeran

Rayon hit Agdam Rayon with Grad rockets last night. The enemy units tried to attack Gulably and Abdal in the rayon this morning, but our fighters repulsed the attacks. Two of the fighters in Agdam were martyred and 15 others were wounded as a result of the violent clashes.

Clashes are continuing near Askeran Rayon. Armed Armenian units tried to violate Azerbaijan's border in the Kelbadzhar Rayon from the direction of the Vardenis Rayon at 2200 last night, but the field defense units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces repulsed the attack. [passage indistinct]

The situation along our republic's border with Armenia remains tense as well. The enemy fired on [name indistinct] and Morlar in the Kedabek Rayon from Armenia's Krasnosel Rayon last night. The fire was returned and the enemy was silenced. Two Armenian artillery guns were hit and destroyed. Several fighters in Karaganlar were wounded in the exchange of fire.

The Armenians fired on a bus near Kushchu Ayrum in Kazakh Rayon at 0900 today. It was transporting [words indistinct]. One person was wounded in the incident.

The Armenians continue to fire periodically on the border towns in Zangelan and Kubatlin Rayons. Our fighters are returning the fire and silencing the enemy positions in all directions. The defense positions in Kubatlin Rayon were fired on by three military helicopters, which took off from Armenia's Goris Rayon. Our fighters hit and destroyed two of the helicopters. [passage indistinct]

The situation in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's border areas was tense last night. The enemy fired on the Ordubad Rayon and [words indistinct]. The fire was returned and the enemy was silenced. Yukhary Buzgov and Ashagy Buzgov in Babek Rayon were fired on today. Two of our fighters were wounded in the exchange of fire. The units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces in the Nakichevan Autonomous Republic have warded off the enemy attacks.

Army Captures Mardakert

LD2506020492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] The (KAVINFORM) news agency reports that fighting continued yesterday in northern Mardakertskiy Rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azerbaijani side used two assault aircraft. According to the latest information received by the NEGA news agency, the Azerbaijani Army has succeeded in taking Mardakert. According to information from Azerbaijani sources, Armenian armed formations mounted sustained attacks in Agdamskiy Rayon. The town of Agdam came under artillery fire.

Heavy Fighting Reported

TA2406164292 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Report by Atilla Caliskan from Nagorno-Karabakh]

[Text] Ten Azeri Turks were killed and 30 others were wounded in clashes raging in Nagorno-Karabakh [NKR]. It is reported that Armenians also suffered heavy losses during the clashes.

According to information from the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the village of (Karminanim) occupied by the Armenians was recovered by Azerbaijani forces a few hours ago. It is reported that the troops of the Azerbaijani National Army have entered the village of (Akdere) as a result of a massive attack and that street fighting is now taking place. Information sources report that the recovery of (Akdere) is a matter of time.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting is also taking place in the region of Nakhichevanik, a township with great strategic importance. Azerbaijani forces positioned in Nakhichevanik are directing heavy artillery and rocket fire to the township of Pir in Armenian hands. Azeri forces, which reached the streets on the outskirts of Khodzhaly, had to retreat to Nakhichevanik after a fierce fighting.

It must be pointed out that heavy rains in the region are affecting the mobility of the two parties. Nevertheless, heavy artillery and rocket fire are causing major losses on both sides.

Nakhichevan's Aliyev Comments on Supplies

PM2406105592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by V. Vinogradov and S. Murazov, from Nakhichevan]

[Text] [Vinogradov over video of industrial installations at the foot of mountains] The blockade of Nakhichevan is more than just empty words. It has affected above all the local people's lives, not to mention those of a large number of refugees. There are almost 14,000 refugees from Ardag alone.

Hardest hit have been the railroads. Dzhulfa, a major transport junction on the border between Nakhichevan and Iran, is at a complete standstill. Delivery of goods from Russia and Baku has become impossible because of the constant looting and shelling of trains, including passenger trains. To be precise, these bullet-riddled electric locomotives ground to a halt here a month ago when, after a whole series of killings of engineers, the railroad was finally closed.

These marooned freightcars contain goods destined for, among other places, Armenia and other republics of the former USSR However, the first impression—that these cars are deserted—is deceptive. There is life, albeit only just. This engineer was taking a train with wine and juices to Siberia. He will tell you the rest himself.

[Engineer] I arrived in Dzhulfa 11 April. There is no light at the end of the tunnel. I should have been away from home for 45 days. It has now been more than three and a half months. I have neither money nor food.

[Vinogradov] Nakhichevan is at the end of its resources. Humanitarian aid from Turkey and Iran is not likely to make much difference. Pilots are afraid to bring in goods by air from Baku because they have to fly through Armenian air space. So what is in store for Nakhichevan tomorrow?

[G. Aliyev] We only have enough flour for four more days. If during these four days we do not receive additional supplies through one channel or another, we won't even have bread. Our fuel resources are sufficient for four to five days. And all this because of Armenia's military aggression against the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. [video shows city, apartment block, refugees, large number of stationary trains, interviews with engineer and Aliyev]

Elchibey, Delegation Depart for Black Sea Talks

NC2406185192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] An Azerbaijani delegation departed for Turkey to take part in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation summit in Istanbul today. The delegation is headed by President Abulfaz Elchibey and its members include State Adviser Vefa Kulizade; First Deputy Prime Minister Ziyad Samed-zade; Foreign Minister Tofik Kasumov; Oktay Shakhbazov, director of presidential affairs; and Niyazi Ibragimov, head of the presidential press service.

A group of press officials related to several ministries is accompanying the delegation.

Minister Comments on Nomenklatura's Finances

PM2406141392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[TURAN report from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "Party Bosses in Azerbaijan Preferred Dollars Too"]

[Text] Baku—Millions of dollars have been stashed away in foreign accounts by 12 families from Azerbaijan's nomenklatura elite.

This statement was made by Azerbaijan's Internal Affairs Minister Iskander Gamidov in connection with the investigation of the Azerbaijan Communist Party's finances. Milli Majlis Leader Isa Gambarov has sent letters to the leaders of a number of foreign banks asking them to declare the sources of income of their Azerbaijan clients, including ex-President Ayaz Mutalibov.

Georgia

State Council Deputy Chairman on Tbilisi Events

OW2406170892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Deputy Chairman of the Georgian State Council Jaba Ioseliani said that "the insane actions of a bunch of scoundrels who support Gamsakhurdia in Tbilisi Wednesday [24 June] were doomed from the start". Ioseliani was interviewed by INTERFAX [IF] Wednesday.

Ioseliani said that after the Zviadists' radio address Wednesday morning, when they took the television and radio department and the television tower, asking for support, thousands of Tbilisi residents headed for the building. However, they came "not to defend the thugs, but to fight with them", Ioseliani said. He said this shows that "opinions have changed, people feel it is impossible to return Gamsakhurdia and his totalitarian regime".

After the time period given the Zviadists in an ultimatum had run out, government forces stormed the television tower and the television and radio building.

Ioseliani also said the Zviadists attacked a police department in Senaki in western Georgia Wednesday morning. He assured that the armed groups in the city will be disbanded by the Mhedrioni.

In addition, the Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Digua said in a radio interview Wednesday that the investigative information bureau has not fulfilled its obligations and did not warn the appropriate authorities of the possibility of a coup. Digua said the KGB of the Republic was dissolved prematurely.

An "IF" correspondent reports that a demonstration was held Wednesday in front of the television and radio department in Tbilisi in support of the current government. Several thousand people participated.

Over 24 Casualties in Tbilisi Violence 24 Jun

LD2406133392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Refuting reports of numerous casualties during the liberation of the television center in Tbilisi by the National Guard, the IPRINDA agency reports in particular that the guerrillas who seized it surrendered only after they had been issued with an ultimatum. According to this agency's information, Walter Shurgaya, the guerrillas' leader, attempted to commit suicide but did not accomplish his plan. Altogether, according to the preliminary data, 4 people were killed and more than 20 were wounded during today's events. The number of casualties is still being confirmed. Significant damage has been done to the television tower and the television center building. Meanwhile, Gia [as heard] Chanturia, the leader of the Georgian National Democratic Party, who headed the non-parliamentary opposition to the Gamsakhurdia regime, accused the Georgian security service of negligence. Every market trader in Tbilisi has known for the past few days—Chanturia stated—that Shurgaya, the leader of the Megrelian [part of Western Georgia] Zviad supporters, was in the city. The security service agents were the only ones who did not know this. I remind you that this was a statement by the IPRINDA agency.

Procurator General Claims 20 Deaths

LD2506114592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0933 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Tbilisi—On Georgia's procurator's office data, 24 June a fact of treachery on the part of the internal troops of Georgia took place. [sentence as received]

In an interview with Ibervisia independent TV company, the Republic's Procurator General Vakhtang Razmadze further stated: In particular, the Gladan units of the internal troops let the rebels have a tank and a considerable amount of weaponry. According to him, the body count as a result of the armed revolt by the supporters of Gamsakhurdia came to 20 persons.

More on Casualties

LD2506021292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Two killed and 25 wounded—that is the sad outcome of yesterday's provocation by the supporters of Georgian ex-President Gamsakhurdia, who on the morning of 24 June seized the TV center in Tbilisi. ANI reports that this information was conveyed and confirmed by the republic's Health Ministry and Interior Ministry. Thus, the previous report of 40 killed and 100 wounded has turned out to be inaccurate. The Georgian Health Ministry also specified that of the 25 wounded, 18 have been hospitalized and the rest were released after they received the necessary treatment.

Official To Send Protest to Chechen Republic

LD2406204392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Georgian Acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua has stated that the Georgian Government will send an official protest to the leadership of the Chechen Republic as the piratic action—its preparation and direct control over the television and radio station—was carried out from the territory of Checheniya. The Georgian leadership will insist that the former president of Georgia is handed over and that the president of Checheniya is bound by all international norms to hand Zviad Gamsakhurdia over to Georgia.

Supporters Block Railway in Western Georgia

LD2506154892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1345 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Telephone report by "INPRINDA Independent News Agency" correspondent Zurab Zvali]

[Text] Since yesterday Zviadists have been conducting vigorous actions in western Georgia. Since 24 June mass actions have been carried out by the former president's supporters, who were in a rush to mark the reinstatement of the presidential power and the taking of Tbilisi yesterday morning. Since yesterday afternoon they have been venting their feelings on the long-suffering railway line. Tracks have again been dismantled on many stretches of the railroad.

As nobody finds that surprising any longer, mass raids and robberies of passenger and freight trains in west Georgia now seem to be a new stage in the practical struggle of the former president's supporters. Today, at 1200 a group of armed people raided passenger train No. 55 traveling from Moscow to Yerevan. They uncoupled the locomotive from the rest of the train and moved it to the nearest station in Tsagvli, where there were more than 40 freight cars. The raiders coupled the cars to the stolen locomotive and drove them to the station in (Yegiri), where they raided them. The cars which they did not manage to steal were burned by the attackers on the site. This is the information we have received today from the Georgian railway directorate.

At present the railway line in western Georgia is being fully blocked. Of course, the law enforcement bodies will carry out an inquiry into all these incidents, but many things have already become clear to the Georgian public, including the fact that the apparently sincere and patriotic slogans of Zviadists claiming that they are involved in a sacred struggle for the reinstatement of the legitimate power of the president are a cover for ordinary crimes.

[Paris AFP in English at 1541 GMT on 25 June adds that "some 200 supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia blocked the main railway line in western Georgia Thursday and were demanding the release of their leader arrested Wednesday, officials here said.

["The protesters were blocking the line near the city of Zugdidi, a Gamsakhurdia stronghold in the republic, Irakli Batiashvili, a spokesman for Georgian "security services," said at a news conference.

["They were demanding that Walter Shurgaya, who led an attempted putsch in Tbilisi on Wednesday, be freed by authorities immediately, he said.

["Shurgaya, a former Georgian parliamentary deputy, is one of Gamsakhurdia's strongest political allies and has organized resistance to the Tbilisi government in western Georgia.

["He led a group of pro-Gamsakhurdia rebels that briefly took control of the television center in the Georgian capital on Wednesday before their rebellion was crushed by government security forces.

["ITAR-TASS news agency reported separately that the situation had returned to normal in Tbilisi and that shops and restaurants were open and operating as usual."]

Gamsakhurdia Blamed for Explosions

LD2506162692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] INTERFAX reports that Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua stated that the Government of Georgia intends to make the leadership of Checheniya hand over former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. He is being charged with committing a number of grave crimes against his own people. According to the prime minister, as the result of the explosions on the railway which were carried out on Gamsakhurdia's orders, Georgia suffered damages amounting to 8 billion rubles.

Situation in S. Ossetia 'Comparatively Stable'

AU2506142892 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] We have received this information from Gori. Valiko (?Doliashvili), the rayon's local administration chief, informed us that food and fuel were delivered today to Georgian villages in Samachablo [South Ossetia]. The situation in the region is comparatively stable, although shooting was heard last night.

Ossetians Violate Cease-Fire Agreement

LD2506154492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] A SAKINFORM correspondent reports that today the Ossetian side violated the cease-fire agreement in the conflict zone. The agreement was reached by the leaders of Russia and Georgia. At 1300, three Alazan missiles were fired at a Georgian National Guard post from the Tskhinvali area. There are no casualties.

Ossetian-Georgian Military Actions Continue

LD2506140292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In Ossetia, fierce shelling over the last few days has left Tskhinvali practically destroyed, but the Ossetian-Georgian military actions are continuing. The Supreme Soviet of North Ossetia is holding an extraordinary session today. Irina Gugkayeva reports from Vladikavkaz:

The main issue on the agenda is outside the agenda, but I think it will be on the agenda. It is the issue of stabilizing the situation in South Ossetia and the prospects for this process in connection with yesterday's quadripartite meeting in Dagomys. As is known, the leadership of Georgia and Russia agreed on measures to stabilize the situation in this area. A date has been set—28 June—the day which should become the first day of peace yet again.

Now news about last night in Tskhinvali. According to the reports we have received, for the first time for many days there was no intensive artillery bombardment. There was, however, shooting in the town from small arms. An attempt was undertaken by a Georgian assault force to cross the Lyakhvi River and to enter the right-bank area of Tskhinvali. The Ossetian guards, however, rebuffed the attack.

People said that last night was relatively quiet, yet one woman was killed, and nine people were injured. [video shows map of Ossetia and clips of damaged apartment blocks]

South Ossetian Minister on Dagomys Talks

LD2506134792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 25 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow June 25 TASS—The meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze at Dagomys has not led to a ceasefire in South Ossetia, Uruzmag Dzhioyev, South Ossetian minister for external relations, told a news conference here today.

According to Dzhioyev, the artillery and mortar bombardment of Tskhinvali is being continued, and villages in Znauri district are being fired upon.

The minister voiced regret that representatives of South Ossetia had not been invited to the talks between the Russian and Georgian leaders. As a result, points with which South Ossetia cannot agree were included in the resultant agreement on the insistence of the Georgian side, Dzhioyev said.

Asked about an attitude to statements by Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Dzhioyev emphasised that proposals contained in them could promote an end to the conflict.

"But if those statements are not backed up by concrete deeds, they can be viewed as a political game aimed at bolstering the declining prestige of Shevardnadze," Dzhioyev said.

'Armed Formations' Occupy Abkhaz Ministry

AU2406154392 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1330 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Today, 24 June, [words indistinct] armed formations subordinate to Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Council, occupied the Abkhaz Ministry of Internal Affairs building. During the action, Givi Lominadze, the internal affairs minister, his deputy [names indistinct] were detained. [words indistinct] state of health is critical. [name indistinct], deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and [name indistinct], Abkhaz Supreme Council deputy, participated in this provocative action. Abkhazia's national separatist circles have considerably (?exacerbated) the situation in the region. In connection with this, the Democratic Abkhazia faction of deputies [words indistinct] issued a statement stating that full responsibility for the consequences [words indistinct] rest with the chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Council [words indistinct].

Forces Remove Georgian-Appointed Minister

OW2506163392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Abkhaziyan parliament Vladislav Ardzinba has accused the Georgian authorities of "open disrespect" for the state system and constitution of his autonomous republic.

This can be judged from the fact, says Ardzinba's statement signed on June 24, that Tbilisi opposes the appointment of Colonel Aleksandr Ankvaba to the post of Abkhaziya's Minister of the Interior. The Georgian authorities supporting the previous minister Givi Lominadze refer to the Georgian Minister of the Interior's order, dated November 13, 1989, according to which the Minister of the Interior of the Abkhaziyan Autonomous republic can only be appointed by the Georgian Minister of the Interior. Commenting on this, Ardzinba said that such an order was issued back in the time of administrative and bureaucratic methods of government.

He said that according to the constitution of Abkhaziya, all the ministers of Abkhaziya, including the minister of the interior, are appointed by parliament, which means that the Georgian authorities are guided by an order which goes against the Abkhaziyan constitution.

In view of this, on June 24, Givi Lominadze was driven out of his office by Abkhaziya's interior units and Ankvaba assumed his duties. No one was killed or wounded during the operation.

Accord Signed With Iran on Gas, Consular Ties

LD1906183592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today, one can officially state that close economic and political ties have been established between Georgia and Iran. Moreover, Georgia will annually receive about 2 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Iran, something which will substantially affect the situation in the republican power system.

An accord on this was signed in Tehran between Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua and President Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also, accords at the level of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and consular protocols were signed in Tehran.

[Begin Sigua recording] I believe that the issue of the turnover of goods between Iran and Georgia is a very important one, specifically that of joining Iran's and Georgia's arterial roads in order to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods between the Persian Gulf and the Black Sea. [end recording]

Natural Gas Supplies Via Azerbaijan Stop

LD2206171792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1517 GMT 22 Jun 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Supplies of natural gas to Georgia through Azerbaijan stopped again on June 22. A PF [POSTFACTUM] reporter was told at the Gruztransgas concern that supplies of natural gas went down on June 21, from 9.5 cubic meters a day to 1.1, and stopped altogether on June 22. Azerbaijan explains it by the fact that supplies of natural gas from Turkmenistan through Russia went down so much the republic can hardly meet its own needs.

Reactions to Gas Cutoff

PM2406084592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 92 First Edition p 7

[David Mdivani report: "Fuel and Energy War"]

[Text] An unpleasant surprise awaited Georgia's inhabitants yesterday morning—nonfunctioning gas stoves. As the Transgaz organization reported, following Russian Vice President Rutskoy's statement the Gazprom concern was ordered to cut off gas supplies to Georgia. The order was fulfilled.

Practically all the republic's bakeries have come to a standstill. But thousands of citizens are crowding outside them in anticipation of small consignments of bread. As yet there has been no change in attitude to representatives of the Russian nationality, of whom there are almost half a million in Georgia. Nor is any change likely, since they are experiencing the same difficulties as the Georgians, Armenians, Greeks—everyone.

Admittedly not only Georgians but also many representatives of the almost 90 nationalities inhabiting Georgia assess what the Russian leaders are doing as a great-power policy.

We have managed to establish that attempts are now being made to hold talks on resuming gas supplies. But, without waiting for their results and not hopeful of mutual understanding among the politicians, Georgia's inhabitants are digging their grandfathers' kerosene and electric stoves out from dark corners in cellars, like they did during the Great Patriotic War.

National Guard Base in Western Region Attacked

AU2306141492 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] This morning, at dawn, a band armed with (?unguided missiles) attacked the National Guard (?unit) in Chokhatauri [west Georgia]. They stole 27 automatic guns and a large amount of cartridges from the supply depot.

State Council Denies Ultimatum to Tskhinvali

LD2306200192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1821 GMT 23 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Georgian State Council: The Georgian side did not present an ultimatum to the Ossetian population of Tskhinvali demanding to leave the town up to 1800, June 22.

On June 23, the Georgian State Council's press center also reported that information to this effect was broadcast on June 21 by the TV information program Novosti (news) of Ostankino TV Company. It was also reported that the ultimatum was issued by the National Guards of Georgia. By 2000 on June 22, the press center managed to get connected by telephone with observers from Russia, Georgia, North Ossetia and South Ossetia who are staying in Tskhinvali. They informed that they had no idea concerning existence of the ultimatum and that no attempts to break through into the city the Georgian side did not undertake. [sentence as received]

At the request of the press center, Sandro Kavsadze, deputy premier of Georgia, chairman of the committee for interethnic relations and protection of human rights, got in touch by telephone with the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet Chairman Torez Kulumbekov who had not been at his work place. However, an officer on duty said that they had transmitted to nowhere over official channels anything of the kind.

Ministry Reports Ossetians Attack Village

OW2406213592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ossetian formations Wednesday [24 June] morning attacked the Georgian village Perevi in the Sachkhersk region bordering South Ossetia, the press center of the Georgian Interior Ministry told "IF" [INTERFAX].

Ossetians took 15 residents prisoner, among them children, and stole 150 head of cattle.

Defense Minister: 'No Problem' With CIS Forces

PM2406152092 Madrid ABC in Spanish 16 Jun 92 p 42

[Interview with Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani by Alberto Sotillo in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sotillo] Why did you launch the latest offensive against Tskhinvali (capital of South Ossetia)?

[Kitovani] In order to defend the Georgian population, who were being shelled.

[Sotillo] Are you confident that the latest talks can bring peace?

[Kitovani] Perhaps, if the Ossetian authorities were able to control the situation, but I do not believe that the South Ossetian Government can control its own forces.

[Sotillo] You have differences with Shevardnadze over Ossetia.

[Kitovani] We share the same aims. That is why we want to stop the fighting. The joint commissions to monitor the cease-fire were set up, but only yesterday the Ossetians killed two girls.

[Sotillo] You share the same aims as Shevardnadze, but not the means to achieve them.

[Kitovani] I am in favor of resolving matters peacefully, but when you find yourself forced to defend your land, you have no choice but to defend yourself.

[Sotillo] If the attacks in Ossetia were resumed, would you enter Tskhinvali?

[Kitovani] If there were heavy attacks, the Guard would be forced to enter Tskhinvali. The joint commissions to monitor the cease-fire were formed to prevent this.

[Sotillo] Will you withdraw your forces to barracks 15 June, as the State Council has requested?

[Kitovani] The National Guard forces are already in barracks.

[Sotillo] So why did the State Council give that order?

[Kitovani] There are many political groups which have their forces in uniform like military personnel, but they are others...

[Sotillo] What is your opinion of Ossetia's threat to launch a nuclear attack on Georgia if the attacks persist? (For the first time, the tough Kitovani smiled faintly.)

[Kitovani] It seems to me as absurd as if Zimbabwe were to threaten us with a nuclear attack.

[Sotillo] Is there no danger of confrontation with Russia?

[Kitovani] There is no conflict with Russia. The problem of Ossetia is a Georgian internal problem.

[Sotillo] Is there any problem with the CIS forces stationed in Georgia? Do you believe that they should leave?

[Kitovani] No problem. Provided that they do not intervene in our affairs, there will be no problem about their staying.

[Sotillo] Will you join any political party?

[Kitovani] No. I will run in the elections as an independent.

[Sotillo] Do you believe that you will remain defense minister after the elections?

[Kitovani] I will hold the post for as long as I am needed.

[Sotillo] What if there is no possibility of keeping the post?

[Kitovani] I will not stay even an hour longer, if this is not wanted.

Shevardnadze To Back Elchibey's Caucasus Idea

OW2206135292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 22 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze supported Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey's idea to turn the region into a single Caucasian home.

Georgia will spare no effort to attain this goal, says Shevardnadze's telegram to Elchibey following the latter's election as Azeri president.

"Its too good to be true" a Russian expert in this region said commenting on this idea. There are many obstacles blocking the advancement to its implementation, he said, including the continuing bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia, the crisis in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and confrontation which has made itself felt in relations between Moscow and Tbilisi.

Estonia

Troops Seize Ammunition From Russian Train

OW2406163192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1605 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The BALTFAX correspondent has been informed by the sources in Russia's ministry of defense that on June 18 a group of armed Kaitseliit troopers attacked a railroad train loaded with artillery ammunition belonging to the Baltic Fleet. The incident occurred at the railroad station in Tartu (Estonia). Over 30 Estonian troopers surrounded the train guarded by four soldiers and, threatening them with weapons, demanded that they surrender the cars loaded with ammunition. Bloodshed was averted only owing to the professionalism and resolute actions by the Russian chief of the guard. The Estonian troopers, however, managed to seize and get away with 50,000 25-mm rounds, claiming that the stolen ammunition was "the requisite of the occupational troops".

The Estonian side took advantage of the fact that the train commandant did not have the original papers permitting the withdrawal of this ammunition from the territory of the republic and used it as a formal pretext for the assault.

Incident at Baltic Fleet Radio Post Viewed

LD2406204492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1846 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tallinn—[Words indistinct] at the village of Undva (Estonia), an attempt was made to seize the radio-technical post of the Baltic Fleet.

An unknown person, who called himself captain of Estonia self-defense forces, came to the post and ordered the chief of the post, Midshipman Vitaliy Boltukhov, to liberate the territory and the premises and to give away all the arms and property. A warning in a categorical manner was made that if the demands are not fulfilled, the captain will lead his men and take the arms by force. Midshipman Vitaliy Boltukhov managed to report about this to the commanders of Tallinn Navy Base, after which the communications were interrupted.

As PF [POSTFACTUM] was told by Lieutenant-Colonel Yuriy Komarnitsky, senior officer of Tallinn Navy Base in charge of public relations, a trawler was sent to help the post.

Speculation Continues Over Dudayev Visit

PM2506083192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy: "Airman Dudayev Has Visited His Daughter in Tartu"]

[Text] Tallinn—It has come to light that General Dudayev, president of Checheniya, is in the Baltic region. Attempts to ascertain the purpose and place of the visit from official sources have been unsuccessful.

The government press service has stated that Estonian leaders have no information on the matter. But unofficial sources, including Estonian radio, cite reliable reports to confirm Dudayev's arrival. According to the radio report he piloted a plane himself and landed at Tartu city airport.

I would remind you that recently General Dudayev commanded a long-range aviation division here. His daughter lives in the city. It is thought that the Chechen president was visiting her. The speed of the trip is attributed to the fact that Estonia is introducing a visa system on 1 July. A second version maintains that General Dudayev is seeking neutral territory for talks with Russia. It was in Tartu that Estonia concluded a beneficial treaty for itself with war-torn Russia in 1920....

The president has come and gone—only the rumors remain.

Trade Minister Signs Agreement With Moscow

LD2306024192 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 2030 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The Estonian minister of trade and commerce, Andras Tamm, signed a commercial, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation agreement between the Estonian Government and Moscow Municipality in Moscow on Friday 19th June.

The agreement states that cooperation in the abovementioned fields must be equal and mutually profitable. Both parties agreed to refrain from any activities that could economically harm the other partner. The document envisages all round help for observing and extending agreements already concluded. It is forbidden to limit mutually beneficial economic relations of enterprises, even in case these exceed the volume fixed by government.

A most-favored-nation regime is to be established in trade. Both parties have also committed themselves to preserve and develop the existing transport connections. Export-import transit of legal and physical persons from each other's territories will not be subject to a duty.

Labor Minister Views Price Increases

LD2306163792 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Interview with Arvo Kuddo, minister of labor of the Republic of Estonia, by reporter Ain Saarna; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks to news gatherers and disseminators from Russia, all kinds of rumors have started to circulate that salaries will be frozen. [passage omitted]

[Kuddo] I would first of all like to say that the implementation of the monetary reform will result in a very strict and very harsh monetary policy. We will definitely have to stabilize the budget, to keep our revenues and outgoings in balance. And for this reason on Friday evening [19 June] a government resolution was signed on the procedure to regulate salaries after the monetary reform.

According to the resolution the average salary first and foremost in the public sector will in fact even be increased. A new minimum wage has been set—at 2,000 rubles—and the range of salaries in the public sector has now been extended, with the difference between the minimum and maximum wages being eightfold, instead of the previous up to threefold difference.

As far as self-financing state enterprises and organizations are concerned—that is, those enterprises with over 50 percent state participation—the salary fund for those enterprises will be frozen in July at the level of the salary fund in May. And it has been allowed to index-link this salary fund for May to the increase in the cost of living in June. And so, in fact, salary funds have been frozen for enterprises in July. [Passage omitted]

[Saarna] Those people who have now been able to visit shops and catering establishments within these few days of living with the kroon will see, well, that one can no longer cope on old salaries. Not everything works by simply removing the last zero: unnoticed, somehow, life has become more expensive.

[Kuddo] [passage omitted] I think that this sudden increase in prices is completely inevitable but quite soon both producers and retailers will find that goods will not be bought at those prices, and I think that then prices will begin to stabilize and perhaps fall. Because the population's purchasing power is at present very limited.

In this connection I am already aware that prices have increased through hard-currency exchange-rate recalculations, and of course, sales tax has had its effect because now it is 18 percent instead of 10 percent. [passage omitted]

We would like to achieve a situation whereby we can regulate for the population's income to correspond to the prices index, at a ratio of 1:1. [passage omitted]

Of course, there are many people who have hard currency reserves, and if one looks around in Tallinn then queues are very long at hard-currency exchange centers. [passage omitted] Kroons are not rubles, and it is possible to obtain many more goods with kroons. I mean this on the strength of our hard-currency trade, and I think that soon our shelves will be filled, too. The picture within the first days, however, has been extremely sad.

Lithuania

Spokesman Views Russian Decree on Retaliation

LD2406212192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Baltic News Service informs that in case of aggression against Russian servicemen and their families on the territory of the former Soviet Union, responsive actions must be taken as provided for by Russian Supreme Soviet Decree 407 of 20 June.

A document to this effect was shown last Monday to the officials of the Kaunas district commandant's office of the Ministry of National Defense. This document, signed by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, was received on 22 June by the leadership of the 7th Airborne Division deployed in Kaunas.

A Baltic News Service correspondent was told by Valdas [surname indistinct], head of the joint staff of the Defense Ministry, that Lithuanian servicemen were allowed to acquaint themselves with the contents of the document. According to him, the document mentions events in Ossetia and the Dniester region. It says that in case of an armed attack on Russian servicemen, armed resistance will be offered, including shooting at people. The head of the joint staff does not regard this document as an open threat. This is, most probably, a warning and an intention to make it known to the Lithuanian authorities, he said.

On the other hand, the Lithuanian national defense leadership is concerned by the fact that this document mentions the former territory of the Soviet Union. It would be understandable if they mentioned only the CIS states. Meanwhile the Baltic states are not included in their sphere of influence, he noted. Furthermore, Russia has no grounds to suspect that Lithuania would intend to carry out aggression against Russian servicemen, because so far there have been no attacks or provocations against them. [Words indistinct] this document cannot be applied, he stated.

Former USSR Troop Numbers 'Understated'

LD2406205892 Vilnius LIETUVOS RYTAS in Lithuanian 12 Jun 92 p 1 LD

[Unattributed article: "How many former USSR troops are there in Lithuania?"]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of this year the headquarters of the Northwestern army group informed the Ministry of National Defense that there were 34,000 warrant officers and soldiers and 582 officers. This number, in the opinion of ministry officials, is greatly understated, but there is no possibility of verifying that.

On 2 March 103 soldiers left Mickunai and Visoriai in military vehicles. This was, as it were, the beginning of the troops withdrawal. [passage omitted]

In the first three months of this year only 253 servicemen were withdrawn. At this rate the last soldier would leave Lithuania only after 30 years!

As the referendum, and especially Yeltsin's visit to Washington, were approaching, this rate "increased". A paratroop training center was removed from Rukla settlement in Jonava rayon, and some tanks, armored vehicles, and some ammunition left Pabrade. Students of the higher radio electronic school should leave Vilnius at the end of the academic year. And that is all.

Meanwhile, some 1,000 recruits have been brought in to the airborne training units deployed in Kazlu Ruda. Thus, the size of the Russian army is the same as before. Strong military garrisons are deployed in all of Lithuania's larger towns.

Where is the former USSR army deployed in Lithuania?—Vilnius, the 107th Motorized Rifle Division; Kaunas, the 7th Airborne Division; Klaipeda, the Coastal Defense Division, or former 3d Motorized Rifle Division—in 1988 Mikhail Gorbachev, "fulfilling" his promise to the Americans to reduce the land army, dressed infantrymen in the uniform of seamen; Siauliai, the air force regiment with the largest military airfield; Panevezys, the headquarters of the air force transport division, planes, and the airfield services; Alytus, a regiment of the 7th Airborne Division; Marijampole, another regiment of the 7th Division, Kedainiai, an air force transportation unit; Ukmerge, two regiments of the 107th Motorized Rifle Division; Plunge, part of a heavy artillery brigade.

These are the garrisons only in the larger Lithuanian towns. Their units are dispersed in nearly 180 military cantonments, often in the most beautiful places of the republic to which Lithuanian citizens have no access. These places occupy an area of 68,000 hectares. [passage omitted—demands for compensation of damage inflicted by army will be presented to Russia]

Further on Troop Withdrawal Issue at CSCE

LD2206195392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Troop withdrawals will be discussed in Helsinki 9-10 July, where a meeting of the heads of state and government 52 European countries, Canada, and the United States will take place.

Ambassador Valdemaras Katkus, head of the Lithuanian delegation to the CSCE, returned last night from Helsinki, where preparations for the summit-level CSCE meeting are nearly completed.

[Begin Katkus recording] One must recall that there has been an 18-member increase in just two years; some new ones have appeared in the European Community and new problems have also increased in an equal proportion.

One of them, the one most urgent for the Lithuanian people is that of the Russian Army, which continues to be stationed in Lithuania and in the other Baltic States and which is presenting a great threat to our security. Moreover, this question—especially in the aftermath of the referendum—was precisely what our delegation had to present this week, and to explain this result widely and thoroughly and to explain its practical consequences on Russian [words indistinct] illegally present on Lithuanian territory.

We have prepared several clauses based on the referendum which should be [words indistinct] added to the final document, concerning the fact that an agreement should be drawn up, without delay, on the withdrawal from Lithuania and that the schedule of withdrawal will be presented from the Lithuanian side and that it must be unconditionally carried out by the Russian side.

This work is not so simple. The support of 52 states must be obtained, and this must be approved by the so-called consensus method. However, there is one good thing about it, namely, that the referendum results in Lithuania leave no room for the Russian delegation's speculations, that the army's withdrawal is desired only by certain politicians or else, let's say, by the Supreme Council chairman alone, or some faction or another. Thus, it is very important that this constitutes serious support and a serious legal argument, an argument expressing the people's will, which currently, is especially helpful to our work.

However, as I noted before, the work continues all the way up to 9 and 10 July and preparations are now being finalilzed or, more precisely concerning the final text—what sort of political declaration it must be, which is called Helsinki Two, that is, from 1975 an assessment [words indistinct] new future in Europe and we think that it should [words indistinct] on Lithuanian territory.

Delegation Leader Remarks

OW2406134392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania will insist on including the removal of the former Union troops, now under Russia's jurisdiction, in the final document of the Helsinki-2 Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, said Valdemaras Katkus, head of the Lithuanian delegation to the CSCE's conference scheduled for July 9-10.

He believes that the schedule of withdrawal should be proposed by Lithuania and that Russia should strictly observe it.

On the eve of the Helsinki-2 conference Russia is planning to make steps to neutralize the hysteria over the Russian troops in the Baltic states, said a Russian diplomat specializing in relations with the Baltic states.

He told DP ["Diplomatic Panorama"] that the statement made by Valdemaras Katkus is one of many statements fanning tensions on the eve of the Helsinki conference.

He said, however, that the Russian Foreign Ministry does not intend to respond to this particular statement in any way.

He confirmed Russia's firm conviction that all problems pertaining to the Russian troops' stay in Lithuania and to the definition of their status and schedule of withdrawal be tackled through bilateral talks.

Baker Replies to Landsbergis on Plant Safety

LD2406200692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] LIETUVOS AIDAS has published a letter from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker addressed to Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis. The letter was received on 16 June. It is evident from James Baker's reply that Vytautas Landsbergis contacted him concerning a U.S.-Lithuanian joint program to ensure the safety of the Ignalina nuclear power plant.

This problem was also touched upon during the meeting between Vytautas Landsbergis and U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, during his February visit to Vilnius.

James Baker notes in the letter that Vytautas Landsbergis' concern about the safety of the Ignalina plant has reinforced even more the opinion of U.S. experts. Along with other countries' experts, especially those from Sweden, they are now deliberating how the United States could appropriately contribute to the solution of this problem.

We value your determination to coordinate efforts, which have already been initiated by the Swedish and Russian experts, with support which can be offered by the United States, James Baker writes.

Currently, we are examining, what [word indistinct] of assistance we could provide this year, and we are adapting it to this project. Your request is regarded as a part of the assistance policy being implemented by us.

James Baker, assured, in his letter, that the United States is prepared to cooperate in resolving urgent nuclear energy problems.

Prime Minister Requests Additional Powers

OW1806142492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1259 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius, speaking before the parliament Thursday [18 June], maintained that the government needs additional powers for realizing the economic and social reforms in the country.

He motivated his request by the exigency to exercise better control and supervision over the activities of local administration officials. To effect this, the government, Mr Vagnorius asserted, should be endowed with the authority to replace the city mayors and chairmen of local administration offices. He also proposed that the functions of local councils and local administrations be split. The head of government also reiterated his demand to disband the board of directors of the Bank of Lithuania, accusing them of incompetence and multiple violations of the Lithuanian laws.

Later in the day, the parliament is expected to address the draft of the republic's elections statute and discuss the issue of holding extraordinary parliamentary elections.

Criticizes Local Bodies

OW1806185092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime-Minister Vagnorius has accused local government bodies and the national bank of violating the orders of the cabinet and asked the parliament to speedily pass a number of laws and regulations concerning the activities of local government bodies and the Bank of Lithuania. He accounted his appeal to parliament to the fact that the fundamental laws of a free market economy have been passed, while the legal mechanism does not function yet.

The prime-minister stressed that a checkup of the functioning of local bodies and the organization of the referendum demonstrated the critical state of local power in some towns and regions. He claimed that reforms are hindered by the fact that laws, government orders and the opinions of the people are ignored by local administrators.

Speaking of the Bank of Lithuania the prime-minister declared that the competence of its leadership stands no criticism and its decisions often contradict the interests of the country and its people. He is convinced that the bank has become one of the biggest obstacles to stabilizing the market economy.

Landsbergis on Banking, Currency Policy

LD2306063292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] One of the greatest problems in the introduction of the lit is the nonunified and uncoordinated policy of the Lithuanian Government and the Bank of Lithuania, Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis said on television Sunday [21 June]. In taking such a step, absolute unity and agreement is necessary. On the other hand, the parliament leader and member of the lit committee noted, this is not only the problem the bank and government face.

According to Landsbergis, the government is more active in raising the issue of the management and reorganization of the bank than is the parliament. Now this question has been presented to the parliament, and we will see if the issue is discussed constructively at the Supreme Council and if attempts are made to eliminate drawbacks. More than once, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius has proposed to the Supreme Council to recall the present board of managers of the Bank of Lithuania, but that has not been approved. Vytautas Landsbergis has personally proposed to Vilius Baldisius, chairman of the board of managers of the Bank of Lithuania and member of the lit committee to resign, however the latter did not agree to do this. [passage omitted]

Landsbergis Lauds Estonian Currency Reform

LD2206203792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The Baltic News Service Agency supplies more information on yet another topic from the 21 June speech by Vytautas Landsbergis on Lithuanian Television concerning Estonian currency reform. In commenting upon it, Vytautas Landsbergis said that one of the greatest problems in introducing the lit is the nonunified or the uncoordinated policy of the government and the Bank of Lithuania. "In taking such steps, absolute unity and agreement between our government and the bank are vital."

In commenting on the introduction of the Estonian kroon, Vytautas Landsbergis noted that this is providing an example for Lithuania, not only the fact alone, but also the preparedness, especially the activity of the Estonian international currency circulation. According to the parliament leader, "one must destroy those barriers which to date have existed in this area in order to enable us to take more bravely the step analogous to the one taken by Estonia."

Landsbergis Speaks on Campaign, Elections

LD2206201692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Radio speech by Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis on 19 June—recorded]

[Text] Good day, esteemed listeners:

An important accord and agreement was reached at the Supreme Council yesterday. An important step was taken toward new Supreme Council, or Lithuanian Seimas, elections in October of this year, with 25 October and the principal method of elections already determined.

The path toward this agreement was not easy. It was difficult to adopt the agreement. There were attempts to prevent it, but despite this it was adopted. The Sajudis coalition deputies made certain concessions in negotiations with other factions for the sake of the most important goal—allowing the elections to take place this fall.

Such an agreement, even though it was not simple and not easy, forms the path which is currently being followed by the still working Lithuanian parliamentary factions. They will continue in the hope that in the course of next week the election law will be adopted. If need be, they may extend their parliamentary work.

The elections are being demanded by the signatures of half a million Lithuanian citizens. This is a vote in favor of a parliament—most likely to be called the Seimas of Lithuania—in a democratic decisionmaking method amid the present, confused administrative situation. With several months remaining and with a clear indication that elections will take place, perhaps both the problems in the further work of the government and the resolve whether to assist this government or not and how to prepare for the elections themselves will probably appear in a different light.

We will talk a great deal about the method of elections and the preparations for them. It is not vital to me to talk about this now. However, it is clear that there are those who are satisfied with the accord and the agreement voted on yesterday, but there are those who are dissatisfied as well. There will be, just as there was previously, all sorts of angry activists who may try obstructing or destroying the agreement concerning the elections.

We see that the election campaign is starting. In truth, it probably started a long time ago, perhaps even two years ago on 11 March, or even prior to that. It continues under various forms. However, currently it manifests itself as a new, confusing campaign. There are various attempts at confusion. We have seen countless attempts already. Certain types of political confusion are being continued. Once again the Sajudis is referred to as some sort of a third Sajudis. Things are called other names and even opposite names.

In LIETUVOS ZINIOS it is stated that those who are not on the left are the ultras. Why are they the ultras? Often in the world there exist all sorts of ultras on the left side. Communist upheavals are perpetrated by those ultras. One can currently collect communists wherever one wants. They may or may not be ultras.

RESPUBLIKA is developing a new topic. RESPUBLIKA is a newspaper that explains that those who fight for independence, from the Sajudis times to the present, are probably all secret, even super secret. They are the most clandestine KGB members since, even though they are not KGB members, they are KGB members, and Lithuanian independence is a real KGB conspiracy. [sentence as heard] [Words indistinct] may be confused by such explanations, but such confusing statements are being continued and spread. Attempts are also made to introduce a certain moral confusion. The attitudes of politicians, the waffling back and forth of their political views and positions, is the very thing that has led to a sort of crisis in our parliament. This waffling is being portrayed as human nature. Because politicians are human, they make mistakes. [Words indistinct] weak, even wishing to have a quiet existence; thus it is totally normal if they change their positions and switch to other camps.

This is expounded by LIETUVOS RYTAS. It appears that the deputies who have changed camps have become a little more human. The waffling is simply seen as a politician's virtue.

Additional explanations are supplied that supposedly this desertion by the deputies has taken place after the decision by the Sajudis deputies to oppose it. How can it be possible to oppose something before it takes place?

Such confusing statements are executed very deftly and such explanations are [words indistinct] the people. Having renounced Sajudis, they have created this situation within the parliament, which constitutes certain presumptions of an internal coup. This speaks of a new majority with goals that are declared totally clearly and openly. The goals include the only newspaper that continues to write differently from TIESA, LIETUVOS RYTAS, and RESPUBLIKA, or the commission which is investigating the deputies who were linked in the past with the KGB and the government and other power structures, which had to be fully taken over into the hands of this new majority. Thus, that which was clearly evident to everyone is now being portrayed in the opposite way.

Currently both of these confusing things are whipped into one. Conversation does not center not on the transition of power to the left side of the parliament. The referendum on 23 May is beginning to be referred to as coupist—as if the people's vote could be some type of coup. Perhaps they will refer in this way to the future elections as well? Perhaps the people who have come to cast their votes will bring about some sort of coup by their votes? Such words are being used by those who do not recognize reality or are afraid of the people's opinion.

The vote by all of Lithuania, which will again take place in the fall through the elections to the Seimas, is the democratic way of resolving all of the problems of administration and the life of the state. It is the method by which all citizens can choos the path of the state. Not allowing the voting to take place, hindering it, misleading, or burdening, in order that fewer will vote, is not the democratic way.

Let us hope that we will come to the Seimas elections this October in a conscientious manner.

Supreme Council Continues Election Discussions

LD2406164492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Today's discussions disturb me greatly, because the larger half of speakers spoke unfavorably of both the elections and the date, remarked Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis to a Vilnius Radio correspondent after today's election law outline and decision on the first preliminary discussion of the Seimas election draft at the Supreme Council plenary session.

Last week deputies voted unanimously in favor of a resolution to announce Seimas elections for 25 October. They agreed that the elections will be held according to a mixed system, in equal parts: 50 percent of the deputies will be elected in a majority way, and 50 percent will be elected in a proportional way.

In today's discussions deputies returned frequently to the factions' earlier statutes on the date and the proportions. Although the meeting's schedule was coordinated, yesterday and this morning deputies disagreed over it. The morning session, which was slated to begin at 1000, began at 1213.

Speaking on Lithuanian Radio, Pranciskus Tupikas, deputy of the Sajudis Coalition for a Democratic Lithuania, referred to this as the pinnacle of destruction of the parliament's work. According to him, even one deputy can hinder all the others in the current parliament if he really wants to. Pranciskus Tupikas named that one deputy as Professor Kazimieras Antanavicius. Due to the latter's behavior, Nikolajus Medvedevas, chairman of the Mandate and Ethics Commission, was forced to issue a statement.

Reviving the discussion on future Seimas elections, Pranciskus Tupikas [words indistinct] the Sajudis Coalition proposal that the elections must take place this fall. The leftist majority wants to know why there is a hurry.

At the evening session the deputies discusses draft laws, adopted some separate paragraphs of certain laws, and adopted some resolutions.

Officials Remark on Parliamentary Elections

OW2506131992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0634 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with BF [BALTFAX] Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis expressed concern over the looming possibility that the parliamentary factions might fail to agree on the date and procedures of parliamentary elections in the republic.

The Lithuanian leader noted that most deputies who spoke during debates in parliament Tuesday [23 June] assessed critically an agreement reached last Tuesday to hold elections October 25 with equal representation of those elected from electoral districts and parties.

Representative of the so-called "new majority" in the Lithuanian parliament Vytenis Andriukaitis told a briefing in parliament Wednesday that the agreement on elections reached by the factions "has a preliminary character". He said that mid-term elections of parliment which will be unable to work constructively would be an unjustified step. According to law, the resolution on dissolution of the present parliament and new elections should be adopted by ⅔ of the votes. This issue is expected to be voted later this month.

Center Faction Representative Comments

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[Text] Supreme Council Deputy Romualdas Ozolas, representative of the Center Faction, asserts in the daily LIETUVOS RYTAS that the agreement for an early dismissal of the Supreme Council is a forced step effected thanks to long and thorough organizational efforts. According to Romualdas Ozolas, its most important source of inspiration is the Supreme Council chairman himself.

In commenting on the method of election, the deputy emphasized the fact that the elections will be party-oriented for the first time. On the other hand, he offers the supposition that there will be no real elections in Lithuania until recognition is accorded to the fact that a normal left is necessary. There should be a center, with social democrats on the left and a national progress movement on the right. A radical right is also essential, but it must not be ruled either by Komsomol or communist idealogical [word indistinct]. Today it is not yet apparent that we have reached that far, concludes Romualdas Ozolas.